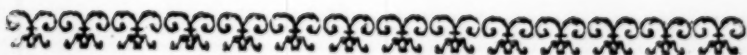


HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

V O L. II.



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HE IS FOUND AT LAST:

OR,

M E M O I R S

OF THE

BEVERLEY FAMILY.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

LONDON:

Printed for F. and J. NOBLE, at their respective
Circulating Libraries, in *Holborn*, and *St. Mar-*
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M,DCC,LXXV,

THE FOUNDATION

OF

MUSEUM

OF THE

REVEREND FAMILIES



IN TWO VOLUMES

VOLUME

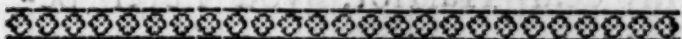
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HE IS FOUND AT LAST.



LETTER XXIX.

Lady GRANVILLE to Lady
CRAVEN.

Granville-Abbey.

H, Harriot, had I known
A —but 'tis past.—Yet, if
ever I am a second time
drawn into such a scrape
—What shall I say?—why, only
this, my dear, May heaven, in
Vol. II. B return

2 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

return for my sufferings, send me another little smiling cherub, lovely as this I every moment press with transport to my heart, to be its companion. Positively, my dear Harriot, you never beheld so angelic a creature as my sweet little blue-eyed Julia.—Do not now, I beseech you, fancy this is merely the language of a fond mother, and that the babe is neither more nor less than a little inanimate being, just like all others of her tender age, whose innocent smiles and helpless condition alone excite admiration and affection in its fond mother. I know these were ever your sentiments, Harriot, on these occasions: I know you have ever declared,

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clared, that, during the first month or two, they must be uncommonly discerning who can distinguish one child from another. — But come and be convinced of your error; come and see your little god-daughter, and confess she already displays a thousand attractions, a thousand charms, which plainly declare she will in due time be a prodigy of beauty. Then for sense, for understanding—O, my dear, could she but express her sentiments as fluently as her gossiping mother, she would astonish you with her amazing share of wit and vivacity. I give you my word she is already extremely sensible of any slight or indignity,

4. HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

and shews a very proper degree of resentment on every occasion of that nature. Your not doing my Julia the honour to attend in person at her first appearance in publick, for instance, whatever your Ladyship may think of the matter, has given her little heart no small mortification, nor did she once condescend to smile on the person you appointed to supply your place. She has no idea of being answered for by proxy; nor am I certain you will ever enjoy that place in her esteem you might have secured had you thought proper to appear for her in person. She scorns to speak her sentiments freely on this her first subject of mortification; she
has

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 5

has too much spirit for that; but it is abundantly evident she is exceedingly hurt by your neglect, nevertheless. However, as your apology had some weight, I will, for the sake of our old friendship, endeavour to make your peace, as I trust you set too much value on her favour, to be perfectly easy while deprived of it.

Mr. Stanley, who is one of my first favourites, positively insists on my keeping the promise I gave him, of being of the party to York races; but, to tell you the truth, I am now so unfashionable a being, and so void of all taste, that I actually find more pleasure in my nursery, than any I can ex-

6 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

pect to meet with there. I had some thoughts of taking our little Julia with us, as she is now full two months old; but he is of opinion, she is rather too young to open the ball; and adds, he is no less certain, she is a belle of too much spirit to appear there on any other terms. Perhaps you, my dear, may be of his opinion; tho' it is now the custom to introduce females almost as young at every publick place. I am positive both you and I have seen misses there at a much more dangerous age: for I believe my smiling Julia would hear all the fine speeches her beauty would unavoidably excite from the admiring smart fellows

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 7

lows around her, without the smallest emotion. However, I will not follow the example of those mothers I have just taken the liberty to condemn; though sensible she has either too much, or too little sense, at present, to be hurt by the indulgence. I hope you will have the civility to pronounce it owing to the former.—If I can manage it, I intend to get off myself. For this purpose I propose to give my Lord a friendly hint, that it is not the daughters alone who are liable to have soft things whispered in their ear; since mothers are but too often subject to the same danger: nor do they always recollect, till too late, that

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it is from their husbands only they can listen to them with propriety. For this reason I shall tell him he ought not to trust me there; especially if he is sincere in the declaration he every moment makes, that I never looked so blooming in my life, as since I made him a present of his little angel: and I begin to think he is right, or that my glass is very deceitful. So you see, Harriot, if one grows handsomer on these occasions, one may as well make no rash vows in regard to the future.

My best compliments to Sir George; and tell him, the sooner he fulfils his promise, the higher he will be in my good graces.

My

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 9

My Lord joins his intreaties to mine, that he will hasten his visit. Julia, too, assure yourself, will on no other terms sign your pardon.

Adieu,

C. GRANVILLE..

B E T-

10 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

LETTER XXX.

From and to the same.

Granville Abbey.

IT was in vain—I was obliged to be of the party; which, thank heaven, is over, and I am once more returned to my smiling cherub, whose engaging innocence has to me infinitely more attractions than all the amusements the world can afford, though so eagerly followed: but I, Harriot, have done with them; yes, positively, I give them up, and will for the future seek no other pleasure

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sure than such as I meet with in this charming spot.

My Lord is deeply engaged with his improvements : Stanley and he are strolling about amongst the workmen from morning till night ; nay, they frequently drag me with them, till I am tired to death ; but as they both tell me exercise gives an additional glow to my complexion, I suffer them to lead me where they please with less reluctance.

We begin already, like prudent parents, to be looking out for a proper match for our fair daughter. One cannot be too provident, you know, my dear ; and this is an affair that will require mature deliberation. Time

12 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

flies; we ought, therefore, to make the most of that portion allotted us. In the mean time she is learning to speak as fast as possible, in order to give us her opinion of any we may happen to propose. We have already one in view, to which we hope she will not presume to object, in case the young man should chance to behold her with as much partiality as we do. This is no other, my dear friend, than your Ladyship's first-born, who we trust is by this time far on his journey towards the world. Had he first made his appearance amongst us, it would have been rather better; but we cannot now recal past time. You have only your fair self to blame: had

had you sooner followed my advice, instead of waiting for my example, he might ere now have said a thousand fine things, to which I am persuaded she would listen with no small pleasure. However, since we cannot, I say, recall the past, we intreat you will make all the haste you conveniently can, that there may be as little disproportion in their age as possible: we will not differ about a few odd months.

We had letters last week from Rose-hill. Our dear Charlotte writes in better spirits than I expected; but I fear she is not in reality so chearful as she affects to be, in order to give us pleasure. Sir William, in his, tells us he is
a good

14 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

a good deal engaged at present with the guardians of his amiable Charlotte's unfortunate son, and those of young Selby. It is a melancholy piece of business; yet must be attended, however painful.—O, Harriot, were it possible to recover that dear child—nay, could we but gain any certain intelligence of his fate, be what it will—much of our present anxiety on the dear innocent's account would cease: but even that, I fear, is more than we can ever hope for; and consequently our felicity can never be perfectly complete. Adieu. You must not now expect me to be such a punctual correspondent as I used to be. Consider, my dear, I have the cares
5003 s of

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of a family upon my head ; I am
now a mother : no time, there-
fore, for such everlasting scribbling
as we have hitherto been accustom-
ed to. But as this is not yet your
case, the latter part I mean, tho'
I trust it will be with all conve-
nient speed, I beg you will make
the most of the intermediate time.
Pray take care that you do not
destroy our family compact, by
bringing forth a daughter instead
of the expected son ; as a blunder
of that nature would prodigiously
disconcert our settled plan of ope-
rations.—Once more adieu.

C. GRANVILLE.

The Editor of this work, finding nothing very
interesting in the Letters of these agreeable friends for
several years that follow, has omitted all those that pass-
ed between them till about the time when the lovely
Julia had attained her sixteenth year. From that pe-
riod the correspondence is again carried on, and it
is hoped will not prove less acceptable than the
former.

LET-

16 . HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

LETTER XXXI.

Lady GRANVILLE to Lady CRAVEN.

WE have maturely considered your obliging request, my dearest friend, and sorry am I to say it, have unanimously agreed to refuse it. “Very well, good folks,” cries your faucy ladyship, with infinite composure, “I have only this to say, it shall be my last.” Tell me the truth, Harriot, did not some pretty speech of that nature escape you, while throwing my poor epistle in the fire without the

the smallest remorse? I am certain of it, so will spare you the confession. But pray, my dear, consider the many inconveniencies that too frequently attend introducing girls of my Julia's age into all the gaieties of life. You forget that, though tall, and perhaps more accomplished than many others older than herself, she is but barely sixteen: reflect on this circumstance a few moments I say, then tell me whether it is not more consistent with prudence to let her remain some time longer ignorant of that world where 'tis far from being certain she will meet with so great a share of felicity as she enjoys at present. Under your protection, and only yours, my dear friend, would I on
any

18 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

any consideration trust her: so pray let this civil speech reconcile your ladyship to the mortification you will receive while reading the first sentence of this epistle. My lord has some thoughts of spending next winter in Paris: if we put this design in execution, she shall, in that case, be much at your service till our return; in the mean time she is fully employed with her music and drawing. Work too has some share of her attention, though but a little. Our tambour, with which she was at first in such raptures, is now almost totally neglected. I fear if she waits for a negligee till that is finished which she begun in such a violent hurry when you was last here,

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 19

here, she will not be fit to make her appearance in London either this winter or the next: yet so eager was she to begin it, being a new amusement, and consequently to her charming, one would have imagined it would have been finished before night; but to tell you the truth, my dear, she has a small dash of her good mother's disposition: rather too volatile, too lively for those kind of matters, which, as she frequently says, when I am chiding her for being an idle, giddy creature, incapable of settling five minutes together to any one thing, are merely calculated for those insipid lifeless beings who are unable to employ their time more to the purpose.

“ Well,

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“ Well, but my dear Julia,”
said I the other day, when we
were talking on this subject, “ I
“ am astonished you do not take
“ example by the Miss Clintons,
“ who are never seen without
“ their elegant work-bags, and
“ who are constantly decorated
“ with the work of their own fair
“ hands from top to toe. Can
“ any thing in life be more com-
“ mendable than such proofs that
“ they do not mispend their
“ time ?”

“ O my ingenious sweet-chiding
“ mama,” cried she interrupting
me, “ believe me, there are a
“ thousand infinitely more com-
“ mendable. So far am I from
“ being of your opinion, that, on
the
“ the

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 21

“ the contrary, were I so deco-
“ rated, I should tremble lest peo-
“ ple, while admiring the infinite
“ labour bestowed on my person,
“ should believe I had left no time
“ to decorate my mind. Does
“ this idea never occur to you,
“ my dear madam, when you are
“ so profuse in your praises to
“ these same inanimate misses?
“ Ah! I am positive it has a thou-
“ sand times, though you will not
“ acknowledge it, lest your idle
“ Julia should thereby be encou-
“ raged to be still more so than
“ she is already.”

“ You are a faucy girl,” replied
I smiling, though sensible there
was some degree of truth in her
observation: for 'tis certain, Har-
riot,

22 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

riot, we seldom see girls of superior understandings, or who have an uncommon share of wit and vivacity, fond of those (what they perhaps with some justice call) insignificant employments. I do not recollect even one of my acquaintance who is both a great worker and a great reader: and surely if they are incompatible, 'tis easy to determine which ought to have the preference, at least with people of fortune, since money will purchase every necessary embellishment for our persons, but those of the mind are not so easily acquired. To our own industry alone we must be indebted for the latter, which 'tis certain is of infinitely more importance. So, my dear, as I was saying,

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saying, the gold and silver in our Julia's negligee has, I think, a tolerable chance of being a little tarnished before she gets to the last sprig.

Adieu. I was just going to seal my letter when your friend Julia gave me the enclosed billet, which she desired I would send with mine. Heaven knows what are its contents: some very important affair no doubt. Once more adieu.

C. GRANVILLE.

LET-

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LETTER XXXII.

JULIA GRANVILLE to Lady

Craven.

SO 'tis a determined point, my dear Lady Craven, that your poor Julia is not yet thought of sufficient importance to be suffered to visit your gay metropolis. My Lord tells me I am too young, mama that I am too giddy. Thank heaven the former is an obstacle which will every hour grow less and less formidable; and as to the latter, I presume, it would not of
2 itself

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 25

itself have been deemed of any great importance, as mine would not, or I am prodigiously misinformed, have been the only giddy head in London. Or allowing it otherwise, where could have been the danger of trusting me, since I should have had such crowds of steady heads to take care that mine ran itself into no mischief? All this, my dear madam, I urged in favour of your ladyship's most obliging request, but to no manner of purpose: the votes were carried against us in spite of our united eloquence. I can do no less, however, than return my dear Lady Craven ten thousand thanks for the pleasure she had so kindly prepared for me, though these un-

26 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

fortunate defects imputed to me prevent my having the felicity to enjoy them. Thank fortune, I say, one of these I am daily getting the better of, and for the other I will take my chance. Would you believe it, my dear madam? Yet what a compliment is this to one that, alas, but too little deserves it! I dare not flatter myself with your want of faith, when I tell you my poor ill-fated gown, about which I am teased to death, is still in the same condition as when you left it. To tell you a secret: I have at length discovered that I have no great genius for these notable undertakings. I wish, indeed, I had made the said discovery before I set myself about it, as I might

might by that means have escaped an unmerciful share of raillery which so many of my satirical friends now think themselves entitled to treat me with. I wish most sincerely some of these sober, work-loving damsels, that so abound in this part of the country, would have the charity to amuse themselves by finishing it for me, and thus put an end to it, and all my troubles together.

We expect my cousin Rochford and my brother in a few days from Eaton, to spend a month or six weeks with us. Sir William and my aunt, if they do not go to London, have also promised to be with us about the same time. They have no giddy heads you know to

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prevent their journey, and on that very account will perhaps be the less inclined to take it.

Adieu, my dear madam. Believe me most affectionately

Yours,

JULIA GRANVILLE.

LET-

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LETTER XXXIII.

Miss GRANVILLE to Miss VILLERS.

YOUR company alone is wanting, Fanny, to render our society completely agreeable. Sir William and Lady Rochford, their son Charles, and my brother, arrived here last week; and yesterday came Col. Townley, Sir John Davers, and Mr. Stanley. I believe you know the whole set, except the Colonel, whom, till then, I never beheld more than yourself, as he is no acquaintance of ours, but came with Sir John, who begged he might be one for

30 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

the future. I confess, my dear, I found no violent inclination to refuse his request, had it depended upon me, as he is most intolerably handsome. This is all I can say of him at present with certainty, though I believe he is also pretty well in other respects. But be that as it will, a red coat, and elegantly-careless cockade, can never come amiss. Our concerts will now shine amazingly, as I find our whole party are as musically inclined as myself. The Colonel, Sir John tells me, plays divinely on the violin; a perfect Giardini. I, you know, sing like any nightingale, and flourish on the harpsichord enchantingly: were you but here, I say, with your heavenly lute, we
might

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 31

might vie with Almack's for harmony.

I have lately met with a mortification of a very serious nature, from which I should not at this moment, perhaps, have been wholly recovered, had it not been for the arrival of all these good folks, who have insensibly talked me into good humour again. Lady Craven, who very justly thinks a figure like mine infinitely too striking to be thus buried in the country, sent a most pressing invitation for me to spend this very winter with her in London. Can you, Fanny, conceive the palpitation her Ladyship's epistle threw me into? Impossible. Nothing, my dear, could equal it, except my emotions when, after a

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family-consultation, I found the said invitation was not to be accepted. The reasons why and wherefore as follows: I am too young and too giddy to be trusted in that whirlpool of dissipation. Now pray, my dear, do you look upon sixteen years, four months, and fourteen days, to be so very, very young as that comes to? For my part, I am of opinion, if a girl has not a sufficient share of discretion at that age to keep herself out of harm's way, she never will. What think you, my dear? But it is no matter what either you or I think, since we are not likely to be consulted about the question; so we may as well turn our sagacious thoughts
some

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some other way : mine, having nothing else to do, are flown to our handsome Colonel, yours perhaps are employed pretty much in the same manner. You cannot do better, my dear, than take up your pen, and tell me whether they are or not. Adieu. *Je vous aime de tout mon cœur.*

Yours,

J. GRANVILLE.

C 5

L E T -

L E T T E R XXXIV.

Lady GRANVILLE to Lady
CRAVEN.

I Believe it might have been as well, if not better, my dear Lady Craven, had we suffered our Julia to accept your very obliging invitation; but we wished to have preserved her for some time longer from the danger of flattery, and that admiration which charms like hers will unavoidably excite, whenever she appears in the world: for it is certain, my dear friend, she is not an object likely to be beheld with indifference: yet, at her age,
how

how exceedingly pernicious may those compliments be which will, no doubt, be lavished on her beauty, had it been possible, I say, to have concealed from her the power of those graces and attractions she is possessed of! But it is too late: nay, in all probability, she discovered it long before we had any idea of her having so much penetration. Perhaps, Harriot, you may be inclined to tell me I had only to judge by myself, or indeed by any other female, in order to be sensible it is one of the first we make of any importance. It is very true, my dear, and therefore a mere farce to imagine because a prudent mother, like her she is blessed with, makes it a point to

36 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

be silent on this pleasing subject, that she must of course remain in a state of happy ignorance. The secret is blown, my dear friend, in spite of all my prudent care: Col. Townley has put the matter beyond a doubt. He was introduced to our family by your friend Sir John Davers. They are both here at present: and, if I may judge by the visible pleasure the former takes in the company of our little conqueror, he at least will not take his leave without regret. In fine, the man is seriously caught by her engaging smiles and various accomplishments. Yet is she not in reality a meer child. He, however, looks upon her in a different light, and, I presume, found no great dif-

difficulty to prevail upon her to follow his flattering example. Not that I believe she has the smallest partiality for him, since the attention and assiduity he treats her with is no more than she meets with from every other man who sees her, and which she, no doubt, like the rest of our sex, looks upon as justly due to her superior attractions. Yet Julia is a good girl, Harriot, and has, I trust, as little vanity as most others of her age. The Colonel, no doubt, looking upon every man as his rival, and consequently trembling with lover-like apprehensions, lest some one of the multitude she is unavoidably surrounded with, should get the start of him, and run away with
the

38 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

the heart of his fair mistress, took an opportunity yesterday to speak to my Lord and me on this interesting subject. He is a man of family and fortune, his character too is unexceptionable; and for person—but I forget your Ladyship is better acquainted with all these circumstances than ourselves. What could we then object to his proposals? Her youth alone was all our plea. He would wait till we pronounced that obstacle to his felicity removed. Would we but give him permission to hope this was our only objection? My Lord assured him he had no other, on condition his daughter was of the same opinion; but he had made it a point never, in the smallest degree,

gree, to controul her inclinations in an affair of such infinite importance to her future happiness. He had reason to believe her sentiments were too delicate, her understanding too good, ever to apprehend her making an improper choice; and as her felicity was dearer to him than any other consideration, either of riches or ambition, she alone could pronounce his fate. He wished however she might, as he flattered himself from the knowledge he had of her good sense that she would, wait a few years before she gave to any man that preference he did her the honour to solicit; adding, he thought no girl could with certainty know her own mind, before she had taken

twenty

40 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

twenty years at least to consult it. Between ourselves, Harriot, his Lordship was of a different way of thinking, when he was himself in the good Colonel's fighting condition. A certain friend of yours, my dear, had not, I believe, quite attained that important age, yet he did not on that occasion insist on her waiting till she had. By the way, it would be infinitely wiser if we were to add the other ten, since we should in that case make much more respectable mothers than either you or I, Harriot, do at present, when it is no easy matter to distinguish *Madame* from *Mademoiselle*. Here am I, for instance, barely thirty-four, yet the fellows are already impatient to transform

transform me into a grandmother. I vow it is horridly mortifying. It is this, I say, we get by being caught so ridiculously young; yet I fear, were I to set forth this sage argument with all the eloquence of a Cicero, to your friend Julia, it would make but a very slight impression. Now, as I said before, it might have been as well had we allowed her to spend the winter with you in London, or taken her there ourselves, where, though she would, no doubt, have met with a competent share of admiration, it is ten to one if any man had taken it into his head to make serious proposals. People there are too much engaged in a thousand dissipations, to be so violently

42 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

violently bent upon matrimony as we, good folks, who are more at a loss for amusement. We thought we had shewn prodigious sagacity when, on her return from school, we made the meritorious resolution of remaining two or three years in the country after that event. It is all to no purpose, my dear: beauty and fortune, when united, will be discovered, I find, though hid in a desert. And to say truth, Granville-Abbey is not quite so retired as that comes to, since we are perpetually crowded with company, notwithstanding you tell us the whole world is in London. How the affair will end I know not, but I fancy she will be in no hurry to put an end to
his

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 43

his flattering assiduities; since, to do her justice, I believe the affair of matrimony has never yet had a place in her imagination. Adieu.

Yours,

C. GRANVILLE.

LET

LETTER XXXV.

MISS GRANVILLE TO MISS
VILLERS.

AT length, Fanny, I have begun the important business of life. — Need I explain myself more clearly? or do you guess I mean that business which alone is worthy to engross the care and attention of a first-rate belle;—viz. Conquest?—This cannot be necessary to you, my dear Fanny, who are yourself one of that happy, that envied number. Perhaps there are beings in the world who
might

might point out to us some other employment, which they would endeavour to persuade us is still more our duty to study; but I fear their arguments, however sagacious, would not have the good fortune to convince us of their superiority in point of judgment. Allowing, however, there may be others equally important, I am positive they could find none so perfectly agreeable to my inclination; and it is an established maxim, that when people are about choosing a profession, if they wish to excel or make a figure in it, they ought by all means to consult both the genius and inclination of the person concerned, before they finally determine the matter.

46. HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

matter. Now I, my dear, have maturely weighed it, and am convinced Nature designed me for that very purpose, and no other; and I have accordingly set myself to fulfil her Ladyship's noble design without loss of time.—You will, perhaps, wonder at my courage, when I tell you, I made my very first attempt on the heart of one who is not only one of the same profession himself, but who has been several years an acknowledged hero. I confess this was rather a bold undertaking for one of my youth and inexperience; but the more difficult the task, you know, the more honour and glory if attended with success. This animating reflection encouraged me

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 47.

to proceed with becoming spirit in my enterprise; and I have the pleasure to inform you, I have met with more than I could have expected in so short a time. This hero is no other than the gallant, gay, and amazingly-handsome Colonel Townley.—Now, Fanny, what do you say to my abilities? I hope, after this proof, there can be no reason to fear my having mistaken my talent; a fault but too frequent when people first set out in life. Many are the instances one might bring to justify this observation: one, however, shall suffice at present, as I have no time to lose.

Our Reverend Pastor, my dear.
—Do you, or can any living soul,
imagine

48 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

imagine Nature, when she dispatched him into the world, intended him for the pulpit?—It is certain, Fanny, I never see him there, without expecting a dissertation on dogs and horses; being so much accustomed to hear him expatiate on that animating subject every where else. And, to tell you the truth, I believe the generality of his congregation would be much more edified by a discourse of that nature, than by those he generally treats them with: for, exceedingly sensible that he knows very little of this world, and still less of the other, he very wisely says nothing about either, but talks without ceasing of the sun, moon, and stars, those
glorious

glorious orbs, as he calls them, about which I presume he flatters himself his hearers neither know nor care a single pinch of snuff; and, consequently, cannot refute those elaborate accounts he thinks proper to give of them. Now by this means you see it is evident we cannot deny but his conversation borders upon heaven: but I am terribly afraid, if the good folks continue to take him for their guide, they will never be able to reach farther than the said borders, were he to preach till doomsday.

And so, Fanny, the gallant Colonel, as I was saying, after having subdued half the world by his

50 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

conquering sword, is at length subdued himself by my no less conquering beauty : my chains are riveted upon him for life.—Do not mistake me, my dear ; it is certain *that* speech favours a little of matrimony ; but heaven forbid it should become that yet. This would indeed be past a joke ; which I give you my word I have not the smallest design it ever should be, whatever his worship may think of the matter. In that deplorable case you know I ought to be as far gone in the fighting way as himself ; at least such are my antediluvian notions of these affairs, though the moderns have rendered it infinitely easier : but I confess it

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 51

is not in this instance alone I am partial to the ancients. So the good Colonel, with all his attractions, has as fair a chance of being disappointed as any reasonable man can desire: for, thanks to my best of fathers, and the most beautiful of all possible mothers, my heart, hand, and inclinations, are left wholly to my own disposal: and this alone, my dear Fanny, they may depend upon, shall be an inviolable security against my ever giving cause to repent that sweet indulgence. Their tenderness in this, as well as every other instance, melts my heart. Now could I with pleasure write a volume on the delightful sensations of natural affection; but,

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lest you should not happen to be in a humour to read it with due attention, I will reserve them for my private meditations; and, without farther ceremony, bid you

Adieu.

JULIA GRANVILLE.

LET-

LETTER XXXVI.

Lady GRANVILLE, to Lady
CRAVEN.

WE have just received a letter from my brother, begging we will go and spend a month or two with him at Rose Hill, as he finds himself so much engaged in business, that he cannot, as he intended, come to us. I believe we shall obey his summons, being at present, for the first time this age, free from company, and at liberty to go where we please ; and as this is the case, you may suppose there

54 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

required but few arguments in order to prevail upon us to do what is so perfectly agreeable to our inclination.

Poor Colonel Townley has received his final answer from Julia, for which, such as it is, he may thank her good mother, since, had she been left to herself, I believe, his suspense would not have been quite so soon at an end. I saw very clearly she had no thoughts of listening seriously to his suit, though she seemed to have still less to discard him from her train; but as I wish as much as possible to check every spark of coquetry she may happen to have in her composition, I made a point of her being explicit. She urged the cruelty of such a request, endea-

endeavouring to convince me it was infinitely more so to dash all his fond hopes at once, than to suffer him for a while to indulge them. Many sage arguments she made use of to prove her assertion, but as I had almost as many, and those still more unanswerable, she was obliged to yield, though much inclined to retain him in her service till she could provide herself with another to supply his place. Another as agreeable, I should say; for it is certain that alone is wanting, since she has admirers in abundance, but none she sets any great value on except himself.—I declare to you, Harriot, I feel exceedingly for the poor fellow's sufferings. In my life I never saw any creature

56 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.
so deeply affected, on being assured
there were no hopes of gaining her
volatile heart. It is astonishing,
my dear, that a giddy-headed,
mere girl like her, should have
found means to fix so strong an
attachment. 'Tis true nothing
can be more lovely than her person,
and it is no less so that her manners
are uncommonly engaging; yet a
man that has seen so much of the
world as he has done—but it is per-
haps owing to this very circum-
stance that he gives her the prefer-
ence. In spite of all we could say,
however, he is determined to perse-
vere, as he flatters himself, and I
hope, nay am positive he is right
in his conjecture, that her heart is
not at present prepossessed in fa-
vour

vour of any other. To this I have no objection, and have accordingly at his earnest request given him permission to renew his visits when we return from Sir William's.

Our dear Charles and his cousin set off yesterday on their return to Eton. I will say nothing of his improvement either in mind, person, or address, as my lord has given them permission to spend a day with you in town before they join their companions; you will then be able to judge for yourself.—In my opinion—but what's the opinion of a doating mother in these cases?—If it did, Harriot, I would tell you I think him the exact resemblance of his charming father.—More, I trust, you will

58 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

allow cannot possibly be said in his praise.—As for our Julia, you know, she is my very self.—This compliment, I think, must prevent the smallest spark of envy for that I have bestowed on her brother, had she one spark of it in her nature, which I verily believe she has not. Indeed she is an object more likely to excite in others that horrid passion, than to experience it herself.

She has just finished the set of flowers for your dressing-room, in which we are all of opinion she has out-done her usual out-doings. It is certain there is an amazing degree of delicacy in the colouring. The moss-roses, I think, surpass any I ever saw, except those grow-
ing

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 59

ing on your favourite bush under my window, which at present, indeed, has but few charms to boast. The spring, however, will, I trust, restore it to all its former beauty, when, I also trust, you will come and every morning honour it by gathering from its branches an elegant *bouquet* to adorn your fair bosom. Believe me, my dear lady Craven, I look forward to that felicity with inexpressible delight, and am perpetually counting the tedious intervening months. Thank heaven we have at length got almost to the end of March, that blustering period over we may begin to talk of summer, a season I now know how to value as I ought, though I remember the time,

D 6

Harriot,

60 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

Harriot, when I have thought it exceedingly insipid and void of pleasure, when I preferred the joys of an approaching birth-day in London, in spite of smoak and thick unwholsome air, to all the beauties of nature so lavishly poured forth in the peaceful shades of the country. But now, my dear, I am an old married woman, though not an *old woman* married, and have done with all those vanities: and really considering I have a well grown daughter, who is ready to take my place, 'tis full time I should. It is but too often the case, Harriot, that mothers find it difficult to resign to those said daughters that place with the grace and ease they ought. This is an observation I have

have so frequently made on others, that I trust I shall take warning by their weakness, nor give them an opportunity to make the same remark on myself. If you, lady Craven should in future times see me in danger of forgetting this prudent maxim, or in any degree unwilling to retreat, do, my dear, give me a gentle twitch by the elbow, just to remind me that your friend Julia is now the chief personage in the drama, and that *I* have only to see that she plays her part with dignity, judgement, and propriety.

Adieu.—Believe me most affectionately yours,

C. GRANVILLE.

L E T-

LETTER XXXVII.

Miss GRANVILLE to Miss
VILLERS.

Rose-hill.

TELL me, Fanny, could any thing in life be more intolerably cruel? would you believe it! I was absolutely compelled to give my charming Colonel his final dismissal before we left the Abby, meerly because I, like a simpleton, on being questioned by my mama concerning the state of my heart, had the honesty to tell her it had not the smallest degree of partiality
in

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 63

in his favour. Now this, to be sure, was literally true in the light they take it in. But for heaven's sake tell me am I never to indulge a little harmless flirtation with any man till I happen to meet with one with whom I am to flirt for life?— Ah, Fanny, the very idea of it is enough to give one the vapours. Now had I known, I say, the consequence of my answering with that sincerity, I am afraid I should not have been quite so explicit. I might, you know, have desired a convenient time to examine the matter more minutely. That undoubtedly would not have been denied, and in the interim we might have flirted together in the most delightful manner imaginable; for, to do
him

64 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

him justice, he is perfectly master of that agreeable science, by which means he had justly gained a very considerable preference in my good graces : but as to my heart, and all that, about which they make such a violent bustle, I protest I know no more about its emotions than you do: not the smallest palpitation do I feel, let them say all they can to excite them. I therefore begin to fancy that nature has been in so much anxiety to make my outward form complete, that in her confusion she has forgot that trifling circumstance, since if really I had a heart, I must ere now have discovered it by some means or other. So, my dear, the poor miserable Colonel is dismissed, or rather he
has

has obtained my permission to lay aside his chains whenever so inclined. But so natural to mortal man is the dear spirit of contradiction, that now, when offered his liberty, he will on no terms accept of it, but swears by all the gods and goddesses he will remain my slave for life.—Pretty talking this, Fanny.—These emblematical flourishes make most admirable speeches, and no doubt ought to make a deep impression.—A slave for life!—'tis really moving, my dear : don't you think so ?—Now having devoted a competent share of my paper to the said slave, let me dedicate what remains to some more important subject.—Apropos : Sir William made me a present this morning
of

66 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

of the most enchanting little lap-dog you ever beheld in your life. Not a size bigger than my squirrel, and white as the driven snow.—Pray my dear tell me in your next in what respect, or by what means driven snow is whiter than any other.—And he assures me it is now, though such a dear little Lilliputian, arrived to years of discretion and its full growth.—We have named him Cupid, as I thought it would not be amiss to have that fly urchin at my command.—He has the finest hair and eyes in the world, except those of Colonel Townley. If ever you happen to meet with him Fanny, pray read that flattering line by way of consolation, for being deprived

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 67

prived of my company. I hope he will have the grace to be properly sensible of the compliment, since 'tis not of every man I make such civil speeches, I give him my honour.

Tomorrow we are engaged to a ball at Sir George Evelyn's, where I propose to make choice of a smart fellow to supply his place.— I have a negligee for the occasion, that for its elegance, Fanny, would absolutely astonish you. I think I see the happy effect it will produce on all the unmarried ladies.— Ah they little dream of the mortification that awaits them!— Then the fellows!—But I'll leave you to imagine the havock I shall
make

68 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

make amongst them.—A new face, and that too quite out of the common style, cannot fail to do a world of mischief.

Adieu.

J. GRANVILLE.

L E T-

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 69

L E T T E R XXXVIII.

From and to the same.

Rose-hill.

C O M E, my dear Fanny, guess, if you can, who it is I have got, I will not say made choice of, to supply the place of my poor Colonel. Fanny, I will give you a thousand years to do it in, and take any bet you please, you miss it at last. What think you of young Selby? That is the very man, my dear, who, according to the opinion of every one present, is as fairly caught as ever man was caught since the days of Adam.

Now

70 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

Now had I been the daughter of Lady Rochford, instead of that of her friend Lady Granville, here would have been the finest opportunity to have got the Beverly estate back again to its old family. In that case, to be sure, I could have done no less than take him at all events: but as that is *not* the case, I hope I may, without ceremony, declare I think him the most detestable of all possible beings. He has thoroughly convinced me I am not without a heart, a circumstance about which I was lately in some doubts: but those doubts no longer exist; for on his overwhelming me with a profusion of odious common-place speeches on my beauty, &c. &c. I felt it rise with indignation

nation at his presuming to pay my understanding so poor a compliment. I had ever been told he was a very plain young man: I am now not only convinced of this glaring truth, but that he is also a very foolish and conceited one; which, when added to the other, you must confess make a very pretty assortment. Yet this insignificant being, Fanny, had actually the face to ask the honour of my fair hand at the ball; nay, and was most horridly out of temper too because I took the liberty to refuse it. This however, contrary to my expectations, did not prevent his tormenting me during the whole evening: but I was obliged to conceal as much as possible my chagrin,

as

72 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

as my partner, Sir George's son, seemed ready, on the first notice, to resent what I was pleased to call his impertinent assiduities. Finding this, I say, for fear of making a bustle amongst the good folks, I said no more about it, but let him take his own way, though I had at first some thoughts of letting them amuse themselves with a duel, as that you know, my dear, would have established my fame at once; but on reflection gave it up, persuaded a resource of that nature was quite unnecessary. I need hardly tell you, after all this, he has but a poor chance of being more fortunate than his predecessor the Colonel. He visits at Sir William's but seldom, as you may naturally

turally imagine he cannot be a very agreeable object to poor Lady Rochford; since it is impossible she can ever behold him without the most painful emotions, though so many years are now elapsed since that unfortunate event, which, if I may judge by the little I have seen of him, I fancy he has not a mind sufficiently generous to lament. I now have but too much reason to apprehend his visits here will be more frequent, which I am positive can be productive of pleasure to no one except himself; and even he must be a good deal disappointed if that pleasure depends on his meeting from me a gracious reception.

74 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

And thus let us put an end to the Selby chapter, and my letter also, if you have no objections, as I am this moment informed there are half a hundred smart fellows arrived to enquire how we do after the fatigue of yesterday's ball. Fifty to five but he is one of the number.

Adieu.

J. GRANVILLE.

LET-

LETTER XXXIX.

Lady GRANVILLE to Lady
CRAVEN.

GOOD heavens! my dear Lady Craven, what are we to think of this astonishing event? For my part, I am still so violently agitated by the very extraordinary, and no less interesting discovery, that though desirous to give you the particulars, I fear it will be out of my power. But to keep you no longer in suspense. It is now about ten days since my brother received a letter from Mrs. Selby, begging he would instantly

76 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

go to her, as she was extremely ill; and in case she should not recover, of which she was herself extremely doubtful, intreated, in the most earnest manner, he would on no consideration refuse her request, as she had something to acquaint him with of the utmost importance, not only to herself, but to him and his family. This, you may believe, could not fail to excite in us the highest curiosity. A thousand conjectures were formed amongst us whilst Sir William was preparing to obey the unexpected summons: but, good God! how very far were any of us from guessing the nature of this surprising affair! He left us the next morning, no less impatient than ourselves

ourselves to know the occasion of his journey. On his arrival he found her infinitely worse than he expected, the Physicians declaring they had no longer the smallest hopes of her life. He begged to be immediately conducted to her apartment; but she no sooner beheld him, than it threw her into such violent emotions, that the Doctors found it absolutely necessary to desire he would retire till she was a little recovered; as in her situation, any degree of surprise might be attended with fatal consequences. He obeyed, and in an adjoining room waited till she was sufficiently composed to readmit him. His impatience to be recalled was, you may believe,

78 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

excessively great, fearing she might die, and leave the curiosity she had thus excited ungratified. In about half an hour, however, he was desired to attend her. She was rather more composed, but appeared so exceedingly weak, that he was apprehensive she would not have strength to go through the task, which he had the greatest reason to believe must be extremely painful. She now, in a faint and tremulous voice, ordered every person, except Sir William and her son, to withdraw. They obeyed, and the two Gentlemen sat gazing on each other, with looks of inexpressible anxiety and impatience. She was just going to break the painful silence they had been in some moments,

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 79

ments, which to them, you may believe, appeared as many hours, when, having uttered only a few words, in order to prepare them for what was to follow, she was seized with a fit, which they believed would for ever put it out of her power to proceed. They were deceived however. After laying a considerable time in that shocking condition, she again made an effort to speak, but had only power to pronounce the following astonishing sentences : — “ O Sir William ! — “ Ah my God ! how, how shall I “ declare it ? — Yet I am dying. — “ Sir William, know that the son “ of Lady Rochford, so long imagined to be dead, lives, and — ” Here her emotions were again so

80 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

violent, that they feared another, and perhaps more fatal fit than the former, and were therefore obliged to call for help: but it was too late: in spite of all their endeavours to save her, she expired, without having power to utter another word.

You may more easily conceive, my dear Lady Craven, than I can describe, the amazement, the various emotions, into which a speech of this nature must unavoidably throw my brother and her son, both so very deeply interested in such an astonishing discovery. Finding all hopes of having a more satisfactory account of the amazing affair so unfortunately at an end, they both retired from the melancholy scene, but were, for a considerable

considerable time, by the excess of their surprise and disappointment, unable to speak to each other on the subject, which nevertheless wholly engrossed their thoughts. It is certain there could not be conceived a more embarrassing situation than theirs at that moment. In fine, after much conversation to very little purpose, and less satisfaction on either side, they parted; Mr. Selby persisting in it that all they had heard could only be imputed to the effects of a disordered imagination: that the story itself evidently declared it, being so extremely ridiculous and improbable: but whether or not, or in whatever light he or others might think proper to view it, this was

82 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

his unalterable opinion, and consequently he should not think it worth his while to bestow upon it one moment's serious reflection. Sir William readily acknowledged there was but too much reason for his conjecture; owned it had the greatest appearance imaginable of being nothing more; yet, as the child was actually lost in a most extraordinary manner, and as the thing was certainly possible, though he with him confessed it seemed but too improbable, he must pardon him if he did not draw exactly the same conclusion from what they had so unexpectedly heard.

“As you please for that, Sir
“William,” replied Selby, infinitely more agitated than he thought
pro-

proper to acknowledge; "you are
 "certainly at liberty to believe
 "whatever you think most agree-
 "able; but I fancy it will at least
 "be somewhat difficult to *prove*
 "whether your opinion or mine
 "has the best foundation; and I
 "need hardly tell you I shall, till
 "that is fully done, beg leave to
 "think as I do at present, and act
 "accordingly."

"No doubt of it," returned my
 brother. "Even I, Mr. Selby,
 "should condemn you, if you did
 "not: yet it cannot, I should ima-
 "gine, surprise you, my dear Sir,
 "if we should, after such a decla-
 "ration, make it our future study
 "to gain a more certain informa-
 "tion in regard to an event so in-

84 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

“expressibly interesting. I am but
“too sensible, this attempt will
“be attended with the greatest, if
“not insurmountable difficulties;
“but it is nevertheless of too
“much importance, and too deeply
“interesting to the peace of his
“family, to be on that account
“neglected.”

Again I repeat it, my dearest friend, what are we to think of this astonishing declaration? And if true, how are we to discover in what part of the world he is concealed? Poor Lady Rochford is almost distracted with joy, with fear, and ten thousand other sensations. Indeed we are none of us in a situation much more composed; and what is worse, we do
not

not see the least probability of ever being certain whether we ought to indulge those delightful hopes to which this story has given birth. In what light, my dear Lady Cra-ven, are we to look upon Mrs. Selby, if what she, with her dying breath asserted, is really to be depended upon? Will it, do you think, be a breach of charity to entertain a suspicion that she has been but too deeply engaged in this shocking adventure? One can be at no loss for her motive: her son was next heir to the estate; it was a very considerable one, his but small. Let us, however, at the same time remember, that it by no means follows he should also be accessory to this horrid affair;

86 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

fair ; since, when it was put in execution, he was a boy, and consequently too young to have any hand in it. Nor is it less evident his mother had never acquainted him with the secret, which, if she had done, one cannot suppose he would so calmly have sat to hear what she had to say to Sir William ; as in that case he must have guessed but too easily her design, and consequently would have taken care to disappoint her purpose. These reflections certainly exculpate him, though one cannot entertain the smallest doubts of his mother's guilt.

How exceedingly unfortunate, my dear Harriot, that she did not live to give us a farther light into
this

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this perplexing story, which she certainly intended when she sent for my brother ! How infinitely happy would a perfect discovery have made us all ! Whereas now, so much anxiety, so many fears and apprehensions are mixed with our hopes, that the latter afford us but a small degree of that joy they would otherwise do.

I forget whether I mentioned in my last letter that Mr. Selby was at a ball given by Sir George Evelyn, where he saw, and was extremely struck with the charms of our Julia. The conquest she had made was extremely visible to the whole company, as he did not attempt to conceal his emotions in her favour. I need hardly
tell

88 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

tell your Ladyship he met with no very gracious return to the fine things he was perpetually saying to her. You have seen him, and have also heard his general character, which it is certain is not the most amiable in the world: but he is, no doubt, of a different opinion; and being master of a fine fortune, I presume he thought any woman would be honoured by his distinction. He is not quite so well acquainted with our saucy daughter as you are, Harriot; if he was, it is possible he might have addressed her with a little more diffidence. But whatever hopes he may have hitherto indulged, this affair will, I fancy, put an effectual end to them.

I

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 89

I doubt not you will join your fervent prayers to mine, that heaven may at length compleat the felicity of our amiable Lady Rochford, by restoring to her arms her long-lost and much-lamented son.

Adieu,

C. G.

LET-

90 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

LETTER XL.

MISS GRANVILLE TO MISS VILLERS.

WHAT an astonishing affair is this declaration of Mrs. Selby's, my dear Fanny! You have, I know, heard all the particulars from Lady Craven; and therefore cannot be surprised that I have not wrote to you before: it has absolutely been impossible, so great is the confusion this story has thrown us all into; nor do I see the smallest hopes of our ever being restored to tranquillity;

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quillity; since that depends on our being able to discover to what part of the world this long-lamented son was conveyed — or, rather, in what part of the world he is at present. Lady Rochford has so much reason to believe he is still living, that it cannot be supposed she will ever be at peace till he is restored to her; and heaven knows there are so many obstacles to prevent this felicity, that, for my part, I look upon it as next to an impossibility. You may believe, though this is not my opinion only, we do not express our fears to her Ladyship, who is unfortunately prepossessed with the idea, that this is a blessing which Providence has yet in store

92 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

store for her ; and is, consequently, happy beyond expression with the delightful prospect of an event so long despaired of. Yet how are we to begin this interesting search ; since no living soul can, or at least will, supposing it in their power, give us the intelligence necessary to this purpose ? That he may be living I readily grant : such things have happened in life, though but seldom : it is certain we are not without some few instances of a similar nature ; yet between ourselves, my dear, I look upon it that we might with equal hopes of success go in quest of the Philosopher's Stone. Accident, indeed, may do more for us in this perplexing business, than we

have

have any reason to promise ourselves from all our endeavours : but what renders the thing in my opinion an utter impossibility is, that, in all human probability, he is himself as ignorant of his real name and family, as we unfortunately are of his situation and place of residence : how then, I say, is this wished-for event to be brought about ?

Poor Selby, my unfortunate soul of a lover, must, I think, though he affects so much unconcern, now and then experience a few disagreeable pangs, lest he should, after all, be found only a pretender to his present crown and dignity. The bare possibility of such a disaster, let me tell you, is enough to discompose a person
of

94 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

of more philosophy than he I fancy is master of. Then the horrid suspicions that naturally fall on his worthy mother!—Fanny, I should positively expire in such a situation. It surely must be painful beyond expression, even admitting, which indeed is no more than charity requires, that he is perfectly ignorant of the whole transaction.

I now begin to think, that the conquest of my heart, which has hitherto listened with so much indifference to all the soft things it has occasionally been amused with, is reserved for this same hero of our adventures: for it is certain, if ever he does make his appearance amongst us, we cannot in
justice

justice deny his superior claim to this appellation ; since all we have met with hitherto is nothing, when compared to his wonderful history. His being spirited away from his mother, is the most marvellous circumstance we have had to boast of in our families time out of mind.—Depend upon it, I say, this will be the case ; for on no other principle can I possibly account for my amazing insensibility. I shall therefore give myself no further concern about the disposal of my heart, but patiently wait till my stars—or his—no matter which—think fit to throw him at my feet.

Apropos.—We are just informed that Colonel Townley's regiment is expected at Northampton
in

96 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

in a few days, to relieve that which is there at present. In that case you know, Fanny, he may chance to occupy that right honourable place till the other arrives.—I wonder he did not mention this happy circumstance when he saw us last :—happy for *him*, I mean ; so pray do'nt mistake me.—But I believe they are never certain of their rout so long before-hand. At that time he talked of going to figure in Scotland.

Adieu. In my next I shall be able to tell you whether there is any truth in this report.

Yours,

JULIA GRANVILLE.

L E T-

LETTER XLI.

From and to the same.

PRAY, my dear Fanny, do you recollect I ever pronounced Colonel Townley handsome?—There are some folks here who positively insist upon it I did. But really it is now become a matter of such absolute indifference to me, that I cannot, for my life, remember it with certainty. In regard to beauty, Fanny, you cannot but know how very much depends upon comparison.—Now

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it

98 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

it may be, the said Colonel might at that time have been the handsomest man I had then seen—but now, child, judging by the same rule, you would declare him a mere fright, had you, as I have done, seen the young, elegant, blooming Falkland—not, indeed, a Colonel, Fanny, but an officer in the same corps.—I beg, my dear, you will seriously attend to what I am now going most seriously to say.—If ever I am destined to know by experience what it is to love, it is to the engaging Falkland alone I must be indebted for my knowledge. And, what is more still, if I am to judge by my present sensations, I am wonderfully mistaken if he has not already
given

given me my first lesson.—Now to be a little more explicit.

I told you, I believe, an age ago, that Colonel Townley's regiment was soon expected at Northampton. It marched in the following week. We happened to be there, and consequently flew to the windows to see them pass. To me there cannot be a more agreeable sight; by which I foretel I am destined to figure amongst the military. I will pass over the joy that sparkled in the eyes of my captive Colonel, when, happening to cast them up to the window at which I stood, he so unexpectedly met those of his fair enslaver. I was not void of apprehensions, lest a surprise of that

100 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

agreeable nature should make him forget he was at that moment on other duty, and that he would have deserted his post in order to kiss my lily hand, which I did him the honour to wave with inimitable grace as he passed. I had scarce finished my compliment, when my attention was caught by the approach of a figure which I will not attempt to describe, sensible that to do it justice is out of the question, since neither painters nor poets have hitherto been able to give us the smallest idea of such an assemblage of beauty and elegance as he displayed to the admiring crowd, while with inimitable grace he rode by us, the colours which

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which he carried waving carelessly in the air.

“ Ah, what an enchanting figure !” cried I, unable to conceal my surprise. “ Pray observe him, my dear Lady Rochford. “ Mama, Sir William, look at him, “ I say, and tell me if ever you beheld a form so strikingly handsome.” This involuntary exclamation, you may believe, drew upon me a tolerable share of railery. They were highly diverted, and teased me most unmercifully. But you know, Fanny, I have too little of the prude in me to be easily disconcerted on those occasions ; I therefore continued to declare him the finest figure in the world, without the least reserve ;

and that I would give the universe for his picture, in the attitude I had just seen him, to grace my arm.

“What, horse and all, Julia?” replied Sir William, smiling; “that, “I think, would rather crowd so “small a piece. Suppose you were “to have a *pair* of bracelets; you “might then grace one arm with “himself, and the other with his “horse.”

“Nay, positively,” cried I, “my “faucy uncle, I never can forgive “that ridiculous idea. How, in “the name of fortune, could such “a thought ever enter into your “head? Upon my honour, I am “exceedingly offended with you; “though it is impossible to for-
“bear

“bear laughing at such an unaccountable fancy.”

I hope, Fanny, you will not call it vanity, when I say, it was not very probable a figure like mine should escape the notice of this agreeable youth. He saw me as he passed; he must also have observed the Colonel's bow. This I am induced to believe for the following reason: That in about half an hour comes a message from the latter to my father, with Colonel Townsend's compliments; and, with his Lordship's permission, would do himself the honour to call upon him and the Ladies before he left the town.—In a few minutes enters the said Colonel; and, to my no small confusion,

after what had passed, the identical figure of whom I had so freely expressed my sentiments. For the first time in my life I felt the most violent palpitations imaginable at my heart: I absolutely feared it would escape from its prison, and expose me to the whole company, it made such an intolerable fluttering and bustle.

“ Mr. Falkland,” said the Colonel, presenting him to us, after he had himself paid his compliments with no bad grace, “ a
 “ young friend of mine, who is in
 “ a particular manner consigned
 “ to my care, and whom I have,
 “ on that account, taken the li-
 “ berty to introduce to this agree-
 “ able company; fully persuaded
 “ he

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“ he will think it a very consider-
“ able proof of that friendship I
“ have promised him, and to which
“ I am no less convinced his merit
“ justly intitles him.”

Very well, thought I, my
good Colonel. One thing is ex-
ceedingly clear to me from this
proceeding; either that you have
an immoderate share of vanity,
or else are an utter stranger to the
passion of jealousy.

In fine, my dear, if I admired
him when I only saw him at a di-
stance, judge what were my senti-
ments of him when convinced his
mind was at *least* equal to his per-
son, perfectly well-bred, and to
the last degree engaging in his

manner and address. There is something so soft, so pleasing in his voice, that whatever he says goes immediately to the heart.—Ah, Fanny, my dear Fanny, let me freely confess, every word he uttered is deeply impressed upon that of your Julia. Yet, except with his eyes, which are, without exception, the finest in the world, he did not pay me even one compliment, either on my person or understanding.—But tell me, was not this in reality the highest he could possibly pay me?—Most undoubtedly.

“Well,” said Sir William, when they had taken their leave, which he did not suffer them to do till
he

he had given them a polite invitation to Rose-hill, whenever they were inclined to take an airing into the country; "I confess Julia has no reason to blush for having honoured this young man with such particular marks of approbation. I confess myself *almost* as much charmed with his modest, unassuming manners, as she has declared herself with the elegance of his person. — "Ha, Julia!" continued he, smiling, on observing my face in a glow, which for my life I could not prevent, "is it come to that with you already?—Nay then, indeed, my poor niece is farther gone than I imagined. What

108 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

“ a mercy it is I happened to give
“ them an invitation to call upon
“ us in the country! I am afraid,
“ if I had omitted that piece of
“ civility, a certain friend of mine,
“ who shall be nameless, would
“ have thought it the greatest
“ rudeness I ever yet was guilty
“ of.”

In this manner did he persist in
teazing me during the whole day;
and, to my utter astonishment, I
found myself incapable of return-
ing his raillery with any degree of
spirit: a sure sign this, Fanny,
that my case is past a joke; and so
he very freely told me.

Now pray tell me, don't you
think I am got into a pretty sort
of

of a scrape, if I should really find, on a further examination, that my heart has thought fit to set its affections on a Cornet of dragoons, who, for ought I know, at this precious moment may not have six-pence in the world besides his commission?—To be sure an alliance of that nature would be wonderfully pleasing to every branch of my family. Oh, there can be no doubt of it; since fathers and mothers are prodigiously given to look upon beauty, and so forth, as the only requisites to render the marriage-state completely happy.

Mercy on me, Fanny, am I actually so far gone, as to be talking of matrimony?

Ah!

1201 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

Ah! it is full time I should
put an end to my letter, since
this is the case.—So, fare you
well, my dear, without further
ceremony.

JULIA GRANVILLE.

LET-

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 111

L E T T E R XLII.

From and to the same.

NOW, Fanny, am I as soberly, and as seriously unhappy as any damsel of my age can reasonably desire. This, my dear friend, must be my apology for that very long silence of which you with so much justice complain. Believe me I am no longer in a condition either to write or read: my whole thoughts, morning, noon, and night, are engrossed by an object which, as a violent secret I am going to tell you, will,

112 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

will, I am a good deal afraid, give me at least as much pain as pleasure. In short, for it is in vain to deny it, this charming Falkland, who has with his friend the Colonel been here already three or four times, has produced such a revolution in my heart, that I have all the reason in the world to fear it will never be restored to its former tranquillity. It may perhaps be merely my ignorance of *la belle passion*, that occasions all these painful apprehensions, since 'tis certain I never was, till now at least, in the smallest degree acquainted with it; but from the little I do know of it, I cannot help trembling at the bare idea of what may be the consequence of my newly-acquired knowledge.

knowledge. Fanny, what have I to hope, supposing, of which by the way I am at present far from being certain, this engaging Falkland should chance to behold me with equal partiality ; what, I say, can we hope from such an attachment, but unavoidable misery ?—For to imagine that my father, kind and indulgent as he is, would ever be prevailed upon to countenance it, is to the last degree ridiculous. I am so exceedingly sensible of this truth, I say, that it would be the height of folly to entertain for one single moment a thought of that nature. Yet this, my dear Fanny, is no less certain, 'tis not in the power of any other man to inspire me with those sentiments,

I will

112 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

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I will

114 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

I will own to you, I at this moment feel for him. Now what renders my case still more desperate is, such is his delicacy, his generosity, that I am convinced, were he as deeply sensible of my attractions as I could possibly desire, he would sooner die than disclose a passion which he cannot but know must involve us both in misery, were I even to return it with equal tenderness. Yes, I see it plainly; he is too sensible of the great disparity of our situations, to entertain the smallest hopes of meeting with the approbation of my family; and without this approbation, he is no less sensible he cannot place me in that rank in life he very justly imagines they expect the man should
do,

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 115

do, to whom they will suffer me to give my hand. Had he but a fortune equal to their wishes, I am persuaded they would not reject his proposals were he inclined to make them, as he has already gained, by his amiable behaviour, their warmest friendship and esteem. Sir William, indeed, is never easy without him, perpetually declaring he is the finest young fellow he ever met with in his life, and that he shall for the future pay the utmost deference to my taste and judgment, which I have so evidently proved to be excellent, by the preference I gave to one so justly deserving. — Ah, Fanny, did he know the extent of that preference, never for such an answer would

116 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

would he not as highly condemn me, do you think, as he is now pleased to commend me? Depend upon it, my dear, this discovery would produce a terrible change in his sentiments. As I am no longer in a humour to trifle, I cannot take the trouble to say any thing about the Colonel, who, in spite of the final answer I gave him some time ago, continues to persecute me with his fruitless assiduities. Would to heaven he would suffer Falkland now and then to visit us without the addition of his own company: but they are shadows to each other; when one appears we may be certain the other is at no great distance. Let me be thankful, however, he does not reverse

my

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 117

my wish, and come alone, as that would be still worse. Had he an opportunity of getting a peep at this letter; Fanny, I presume that would very soon be the case.—Adieu,

Yours,

J. GRANVILLE.

L E T-

118: HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

L E T T E R XLIII.

From and to the same.

FANNY, do you know that I am now almost out of my wits with joy, gratitude, and I know not how many other charming passions? 'Tis true there is also a small dash of fears and apprehensions mixed with them; but this, we are not to learn, is and ever must be the case in all human pleasures. 'Tis not in this world, you know, my dear friend, we are to expect them perfect; and with as little reason, I fancy, did you expect

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 119

pect so grave, so moral a reflection to drop from my pen : but 'tis full time to begin, when people have the vanity to think themselves of sufficient importance to take upon them the cares of a family.

“ For heaven’s sake have done
“ with your impertinent digres-
“ sions,” cries the impatient Frances,
“ and let us know what mighty
“ matter has happened to put your
“ wits thus to flight, and then be
“ as mad as you please.”

Agreed, my dear ; so thus I be-
gin.

Walking, a few days ago, in
the garden, deeply meditating on
my ill-fated love, and its charming
object—Stay, stay, I am wrong:
I should first tell you that there no
longer

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longer remains the smallest doubt of his taste and judgement—Fanny, he adores me—so let that suffice, no matter how I made the dear, the delightful discovery, it is sufficient that both you and I are acquainted with it.

So, as I was saying, walking the other day deeply meditating on my hopeless love, happening to pass near a summer-house, I thought I heard the animating name of Falkland pronounced by a voice I instantly knew to be Sir William's.

By your leave, curiosity, said I to myself: for the first time in my life I must positively listen to the conversation of these good folks, though they perhaps do not wish
me

me to be a witness to it, since if they had, they knew where to find me.

I took my stand in a sly corner, where, unobserved, I had the felicity to overhear the following dialogue.

“Upon my honour, my Lord,” said Sir William, “I cannot altogether blame my neice; though I grant it would perhaps have been better had she beheld him with less partiality; but I also confess I think this was hardly possible. That he should be deeply sensible of her attractions was the unavoidable consequence of being so intimately acquainted with her as we have suffered

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“ him to be, by our own imprudence.”

“ Then you really believe their passion mutual,” said my mother, interrupting him.

“ Ah, my dear sister,” cried my aunt, “ can your ladyship, who is so well acquainted with its various symptoms, pretend to be blind to what is so extremely conspicuous to every other person? Indeed, indeed, they are both too lovely, too amiable and engaging to leave the smallest doubts.”

“ Then, my dear Charlotte,” said my father, “ I have only this to say, we have all been exceedingly to blame in this affair from the beginning. Why, in the name of heaven, if you really fore-

“ saw what has happened, did you
 “ not reveal your suspicions, that
 “ I might, by removing her from
 “ hence, have put an end to their
 “ acquaintance, and by this means
 “ have avoided the disagreeable con-
 “ sequences we are likely to be in-
 “ volved in by your neglect?”

“ Come, come, my lord,” said
 my sweet Sir William, “ do not
 “ look upon the affair in this un-
 “ favourable light. You love your
 “ daughter, she is worthy of your
 “ tenderest affections. I am per-
 “ suaded her felicity will ever be
 “ your principal view, whenever
 “ you wish to settle her in life ; and
 “ I think I am too well acquainted
 “ with your lordship’s sentiments
 “ to believe you look upon riches,

124 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

“ or titles, however great, as the
“ most essential requisite in order
“ to ensure it : you and I have seen
“ too much of the world not to
“ know the contrary.”

“ To what does all this tend,
“ Sir William?” cried my father,
hastily interrupting him ; “ surely
“ you would not on that account
“ advise me to marry her to a beg-
“ gar, and such, for any thing we
“ know to the contrary, may this
“ Falkland be, though you all so
“ warmly espouse his cause. Put
“ this affair out of the question,
“ and no one can be more sensible
“ of his merit than myself. As a
“ proof that I have the highest
“ opinion of his worth, I give you
“ my honour, had he barely what

“ Julia

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 125

“ Julia could with propriety look
“ upon as a competency, and were
“ his family such as mine need not
“ blush to be allied to, I know not
“ the man to whom I would with
“ more pleasure give her hand.”

“ Believe me, my lord,” replied
my uncle, “ I honour you for
“ those generous sentiments, they
“ are worthy of yourself; give me
“ leave then, as the sincere friend,
“ not only of your lordship’s fami-
“ ly, but also the friend of my
“ young favourite, to propose our
“ making the necessary enquiries
“ about those particulars, which I
“ presume will be attended with
“ very little difficulty, and let your
“ lordship’s future proceedings de-

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“pend on the intelligence we receive concerning both.”

To this delightful proposal my lord, with some little reluctance, at length agreed.—And I, Fanny, half wild with joy, astonishment, gratitude, fear, and ten thousand other sensations which I cannot describe, scarce knowing whether I trod on earth or air, withdrew, lest I should be discovered by those dear friends who had given me such transporting proofs of their tenderness and affection.

Now, Fanny, tell me, have I not reason to rejoice, when I look forward to the supremely-happy prospect that awaits me? Some fears, some few doubts there are, I confess, that at times give a check
to

to my delightful hopes ; but I will not indulge them. A gentleman he must be ; his education, his manner, his noble, generous sentiments, all these, my dearest Fanny, and a thousand other incontestable proofs declare it :—and for fortune—ah surely, surely, they will not, for a deficiency in that insignificant article, render two persons miserable for whom they profess such esteem, friendship, and tender affection! —Impossible — Utterly impossible.—O Fanny, what ecstasy, what joy, would the knowledge of this interesting conversation give to the heart of my charming Falkland ! But heaven forbid I should, even to him, reveal that secret. I myself became acquaint-

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ted with by means which, 'tis certain, I cannot fully justify.—Yet surely, Fanny, the most rigid cannot greatly blame me when they consider the nature of that important conference, and how nearly it concerned my future peace.—Whether they have yet begun to make those enquiries I have not the smallest guess, but would give worlds, you may believe, to have my curiosity in that particular gratified. A short time, however, will I trust put an end to all my doubts, as well as fears, for my beating heart at this moment tells me I am born to be the happiest of my sex.

Ah, Fanny, I was not deceived—my Falkland comes! I see him from my window, his charming hair
ruffled

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ruffled by the wind, and negligently
flowing over the loveliest forehead
in the world. Fanny he sees me—
he smiles—and I am happy. Adieu.

Yours,

J. GRANVILLE.

G 5 L E T.

LETTER XLIV.

From and to the same.

HEAVEN only knows what is going on amongst us, Fanny, but I am convinced there are some important matters in agitation, if I may judge by the frequent consultations and expressive looks I observe passing between Sir William and my father. To tell you the truth, I do not think either Lady Rochford or my mother are let fully into the plot more than myself; at least I think so by their enquiring

enquiring eyes. I fancy the gentlemen, who have, of course, taken upon them to gain the important information, are determined to keep them in suspense till they can fully gratify their curiosity at once, and not by bits and scraps. All this, my dear, is mere conjecture; but one's thoughts, you know, must be employed, and mine, you may believe, will naturally run on this interesting subject. 'Tis now near ten days since I overheard that no less interesting dialogue. Surely, had they felt half my impatience, they might long ere now have found means to have got all their doubts satisfied. Nay, what had they more to do for this purpose than to ask Colonel Townley, who

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can be no stranger to his family and connections. — Yet, on second thoughts, this might not perhaps have been quite so proper neither, since, to make very minute enquiries, without giving some feasible reason for so doing, would rather have an odd, if not an impertinent appearance; and to let him into the secret would be still worse on many accounts. — In short, Fanny, had they asked my advice, it should have been to marry us first, and to make all those ridiculous enquiries afterwards, when one had nothing else to do.

This delightful affair—for in that light, Fanny, I am determined to look upon it—has for some time so wholly engrossed my thoughts,
that,

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that, till this moment, I totally forgot to tell you I received (heaven knows how long since, for to say truth, it made a wondrously slight impression both on my heart and memory) a most laboured epistle from my most obedient slave and servant, Robert Selby, Esq; the purport as follows:—Hoped the *ridiculous* declaration made by his mother, had in no degree injured him in my esteem, nor in that of my family; a declaration which could have no foundation in truth, but proceeding merely from a disordered imagination, which was evidently proved to be the case, by her immediate death.—These, or something to that purpose, are his words, Fanny, which, according to my

my idea, do not very clearly prove his meaning; but that's a trifle.—Next comes a most flaming account of his unconquerable—ungovernable too, I think he calls it—passion.—No living without me.—Very likely, my good friend, but it shall be my business to take care you do not live *with* me.—Would I permit him to renew his visits, to which the above unaccountable story had for some time put a stop? Some unguarded expressions having dropped between Sir William and him, during their conference on that subject, which he nevertheless flattered himself could not reasonably create a coolness towards him from Lord Granville's family, for whom he must ever retain the highest respect
and

and esteem, would I allow him to hope for the honour of a few lines from my fair hand, just to tell him what he had to expect?—Most willingly.—I sent him half a dozen that very day, having first shown his production to my mother, who was perfectly of my opinion that such a profusion of fine speeches deserved at least a civil answer. Besides, it was so exceedingly easy to oblige him, that I could not find in my heart to refuse.—All he desired, you see, was only to know what he had to expect. Accordingly I made a short, though very courteous answer, to this effect: that he had nothing upon the face of the earth to expect from me, except my earnest prayers for his improvement

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improvement both in mind and person.—Is he not infinitely obliged to me for this proof of my friendship?

Adieu, my dear, heaven grant that in my next I may be able to give you a more satisfactory account of things than it is in my power to do at present.

Yours,

J. GRANVILLE.

L E T-

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 137

LETTER XLV.

Lady GRANVILLE to Lady
CRAVEN.

WE are at present, my dear
Lady Craven, in a good
deal of concern for our poor Ju-
lia. I am exceedingly afraid an
unfortunate, and no less impru-
dent attachment, will be the source
of much affliction to that amiable
girl. Yet I know not whether I ought,
in strict justice, to pronounce it
imprudent, since the object is cer-
tainly (setting aside family and
fortune, which, 'tis certain, are
two very material articles, though
per-

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perhaps in general too much attended to; since, however great the one, or noble the other, they do not, in reality, add one grain of merit to the possessor) a most amiable and finely-accomplished young man. This, my dear Lady Craven, is a sentiment no one can more readily acknowledge than my Lord; and, as a proof of it, he had, unknown to his daughter, who, I should tell you, has not the smallest idea of our being acquainted with what passes in her little heart, determined to promote an event in which, we have all imaginable reason to believe, her heart is so deeply interested; had he, on enquiry, found the young man's family and connections

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 139

ons such as we could, without imprudence, suffer her to be allied to; but, to our inexpressible concern, my dear friend, this is not the case. His father, who we have reason to believe was a person of mean extraction, died when he was quite a boy, leaving his mother, whose family we understand was no way superior to that of her husband, in no very affluent circumstances (an annuity of two hundred a year) with this son, and some other children; how many we know not, but fancy there only now survives one sister. The widow, it seems, was handsome; and 'tis certain, if we are to judge of her son, she must have been strikingly so, since he is, without exception,

exception, one of the finest figures I ever beheld; nor are his manners, his sentiments less engaging. But what avails all these pleasing attractions in the eye of a misjudging world, to whose opinion we must pay some degree of deference, if unaccompanied by—what is perhaps erroneously deemed—more essential qualifications? His mother, I say, was exceedingly handsome, and, though encumbered with a family, for whom she could make no provision, as all she possessed unavoidably died with her, by her beauty gained a second husband, in every respect superior to her first, having an estate of five or six hundred a year, but he had a son also, and consequently our

poor

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poor Falkland could hope to reap but little benefit from this circumstance, unless that of receiving a better education than he would otherwise have done, and a very considerable advantage it certainly is, nor has any thing been omitted to render his perfectly complete. While at school he contracted a friendship with the son of a nobleman, a youth much of his own age and amiable disposition: they became inseparable companions. During the holidays Falkland constantly accompanied him to his father's. His Lordship was in a short time no less partial to him than his son. In fine, when his friend left school and was preparing to make the grand tour, he

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he begged my Lord would permit Falkland to accompany him. His request was complied with. They were put under the care of a governor, staid abroad three years, returned with every improvement that could possibly be acquired, when, to complete their generous conduct, his Lordship bought him a commission in the dragoons, and still honours him with the warmest friendship. This regiment happened to be the same to which our friend Townley is colonel. To him my Lord strongly recommended his young friend, and by his means we became acquainted with him; an event which, I say, I am much afraid will be the cause of many tears to my lovely Julia.

His

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 143

His mother died about four years ago, happy, no doubt, in seeing her son so accomplished, and provided for in a manner so far superior to her most sanguine hopes.

This, my dear Lady Craven, is the history of the young man who has, by his engaging behaviour, and various accomplishments, both of mind and person, not only made a deep and, I fear, a lasting impression on her heart, but also gained the friendship and esteem of all this family. But still, my dearest friend, amiable and accomplished as he confessedly is, we cannot think him a proper match for our daughter. Though 'tis impossible to carry our regard for him so far; yet heaven knows, did

144 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

did their felicity depend only on me, I fear my tenderness for my beloved child would get the better of every other consideration. — Perhaps, Lady Craven, it is better that it does not.

In consequence of this disagreeable intelligence, which we had from his father-in-law, and of course of undoubted authority, we are preparing to return home, that we may, if possible, by absence from the too-amiable object of her affections, weaken her unfortunate attachment. We have taken such effectual precautions in this affair, that it is impossible either Falkland or Julia can ever know we have made these enquiries. Delicacy on account of both required

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we should do so ; since he would, no doubt, be exceedingly shocked, and no less mortified, were he to be informed of what has passed : and my poor Julia, I have too much reason to believe, would expire with grief and disappointment, were she to be at present told that all those pleasing hopes, she, no doubt, allows her heart to indulge, can never be gratified. All this transaction, I say, is to continue an inviolable secret to both ; nor are we ever to give the smallest intimation that we have any suspicion of those emotions with which it is but too evident to us all their hearts are mutually filled. Time, we flatter ourselves, will produce the effects we have so

146 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

much reason to wish for in both, as that alone can restore them to tranquillity.

All my poor sister's hopes, which Mrs. Selby's declaration had given birth to in regard to the recovery of her unfortunate son, begin to vanish; since, if he really does live, as she asserted, there is not the smallest probability that she can ever learn in what part of the world he resides. It is a distressing affair, my dear Lady Craven, and doubly so, having a second time had that melancholy event brought so forcibly to her remembrance by that unexpected assertion. In short, my dearest friend, we are at present, what with our anxiety on her account, and that of my poor

HE
Julia,
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HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 147

Julia, in a very disagreeable situation: nor can I, without the utmost concern, reflect on the fate of the engaging Falkland. Adieu.

Most sincerely yours,

C. GRANVILLE.

H 2

LET-

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LETTER XLVI.

Miss GRANVILLE to Miss
VILLERS.

AH, Fanny, my dear Fanny, they are going to tear me from him, and my prophetic heart tells me I shall never behold him more!—Yes, to-morrow—O I cannot describe my feelings on this cruel, this unexpected event. — To-morrow it is determined we are to bid adieu to this dear spot, the center of all my earthly happiness.—Falkland—my amiable, my
engaging

engaging Falkland!—Ah, never, never more shall I behold that charming youth!

He dined with us yesterday, more blooming, more lovely, if possible, than ever. When he was going to take leave—"Mr. Falkland," said my father, "in case I have not the pleasure of seeing Colonel Townley before we go, which I can hardly now expect, as we bid adieu to our friends here in a day or two, I beg you will offer him my best respects."

Fanny, I thought I should have died on hearing so cruel, so unexpected a declaration. It is not in nature to describe what I felt at that dreadful moment. Had my death been pronounced, it could

150 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

not have shocked me more. It instantly occurred to me that the important enquiries concerning him had been made, and that they had not turned out agreeably; and consequently your unfortunate Julia was doomed to wretchedness.—My amiable Falkland too—but no words can paint the visible dejection that instantly overspread the finest face in the world.

“ In a day or two, my Lord !” cried he, in a voice scarce articulate, and trembling with emotions which it was impossible could pass unobserved, though no notice was taken ; “ So soon, my Lord !” casting a look of inexpressible anguish at me as he spoke—“ yes, most assuredly I will obey your command—

“ mands—

"mands—but—but—to whom,
 "my Lord, did you say?—O the
 "Colonel, I now remember—
 "Pardon me. I — — to Colonel
 "Townley.—Yes, my Lord, you
 "may depend upon it I will not
 "fail."

"And mine, also, if you please,
 "Mr. Falkland," said my mother,
 with a tenderness in her air and
 voice which so plainly told him she
 was deeply affected by our distress,
 that, in spite of his efforts to re-
 strain that amiable proof of his sen-
 sibility, filled his charming eyes
 with tears: affecting to cough,
 however, and taking his handker-
 chief hastily from his pocket, he
 wiped away the precious drops,
 and thus, from every one, except

his Julia, concealed a weakness, as some perhaps might deem it, but for which I, my dear Fanny, adore him—Mine now rolled down my cheeks in abundance, nor did I attempt to conceal them, indifferent to all but my poor Falkland, who well deserved this last testimony of my unalterable affection.

“ Julia, my love,” said Lady Rochford, taking my hand with infinite tenderness, “ you are not
 “ well, I fear. Allow me, my
 “ my sweet girl, to lead you for
 “ a moment into the air.”

“ Ah, my G-d, lead me where
 “ you please,” returned I, sobbing as if my tortured heart would burst; “ ah, lead me to my grave,
 “ since I too plainly see there is

“ only

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 153

“ only misery and wretchedness
“ for me in this cruel world.”

While I spoke she led me towards the door, no one, except my almost-lifeless Falkland, seeming to pay the smallest attention to my exclamation ; when, casting my eyes, swimming in tears, once more on the amiable object for whom they can never cease to flow, I saw him take his hat, and putting his handkerchief to his face, he bowed hastily to every one present ; then raising his fine eyes to heaven, as if complaining of his cruel destiny, he instantly quitted the room, my father following with looks that told me even he was not so indifferent to his sufferings as he wished us to believe. Fan-

154 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

ny, I saw him no more ; nor have they, from that dreadful moment, once mentioned his name. What, O tell me, what can they mean by this unkind behaviour ? Why do they not openly tell me they have doomed me to despair ? Why affect this ignorance ? They cannot, it is impossible they should really believe I think them unacquainted with our attachment. Why not speak freely of it ; and, instead of this cruel silence, at least attempt, by soothing tenderness, and by those arguments they, no doubt, think sufficiently weighty, to console and reconcile me to my fate ?

O Fanny, he is gone, and I shall see his engaging face no more !

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 155

more ! To-morrow, yes, to-mor-
row, puts that felicity for ever out
of the power of

Your afflicted

JULIA GRANVILLE.

LET-6H

LETTER XLVII.

Lady GRANVILLE to Lady
CRAVEN.

IT is impossible, my dear Lady Craven, to express how deeply we are affected by the distressing situation of our poor Julia: her sufferings pierce my very heart. Ah, what a mournful change has this fatal passion produced! She is no longer the same creature: all her former sprightliness and vivacity are fled, and a pensive melancholy now supplies their place in her breast. Yet she murmurs not: no complaints, no repinings ever escape

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 157

escape from her lips, though I dare not flatter myself she looks upon our conduct as void of cruelty. But what can we do, my dear friend? To indulge her in the wish of her heart would be the height of imprudence; at least, the world would deem it such, in whatever light you or I, from our tenderness for the dear creature, might be induced to look upon it. Surely, Lady Craven, time will effect the desired change in her sentiments. It is impossible the present violence of her grief can long continue: it cannot be: the greatest afflictions have ere now been conquered by that salutary remedy, when all others have failed. It is our unremitted study

158 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

study to amuse and make her forget her sorrows : nothing in our power is wanting to this purpose ; but hitherto, though she appears extremely sensible of our kind intentions, and no less grateful, yet all our endeavours are fruitless. I now begin to think it would have been better had we freely informed her of our having discovered her attachment. Perhaps, had we continued to talk of poor Falkland without reserve, we should have been more successful than by following our present plan. My Lord is also under a thousand tender apprehensions, lest a grief so rooted, as hers appears to be, should be the occasion of some fatal disorder. Should her health be injured
by

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 159

by it, we shall, when too late, repent the sacrifice we have made to the opinion of the world, which, in that unhappy case, would perhaps be the first to condemn our conduct as cruel and unkind.

Believing it would give her as much pleasure as she is at present capable of enjoying, on my return home I wrote to her friend Miss Villers, begging she would come and spend the summer with her. She very obligingly obeyed my summons, and has been here this fortnight. The agreeable surprise of seeing her so unexpectedly, had all the effect we could reasonably hope for. They are now inseparable, and, no doubt, in their solitary rambles make ample amends
for

160 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

for the silence they are condemned to suffer in our presence, on the only subject that, I presume, affords them the smallest degree of pleasure. She is an exceeding good girl, and, I am fully persuaded, has all the affection of a sister for her distressed friend. We have some thoughts of going to spend a month or two at Scarborough, to see what change of air, and the agreeable dissipation of that place, will do for her. I wish you and Sir George would contrive to meet us there, then might we all return together, and, according to your promise, end the summer with us here. Do, my dear friend, for the sake of your Julia, let me obtain this favour. Come and help

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 161

help me to console this poor child, whose sorrows really distress me beyond expression. I will let you know when we set out, and shall expect to meet you. My Lord most ardently joins me in this request, and hopes Sir George will lay *his* commands upon you, should you be inclined to disobey *ours*.

Adieu. •

C. G.

LET-

162 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

L E T T E R XLVIII.

From and to the same.

Scarborough.

SINCE I cannot prevail upon you to come to us, my dear Lady Craven, according to our earnest entreaties, I may as well accept your apology as not; for what would it avail me to say, I do not think the obstacle you mention quite so unsurmountable as you do? The point is determined, and I must give up *that* I had set my heart upon.

We have now been here about ten days. A great deal of genteel com-

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 163

company, fine weather, and crowded balls. We were at the rooms last night : till then we could not, without infinite reluctance, prevail upon Julia to accompany us ; we therefore did not press her, seeing it gave her so much pain. Last night however I observed to her, that as her absenting herself, in some measure obliged her friend Miss Villers to do so too, I thought she should, on that account, no longer refuse us her company, though not perfectly agreeable to herself. She at once saw the force of my argument, and, with her usual sweetness, prepared to obey.

As it was her first appearance at any publick place of that nature, you may believe so lovely a figure,
and

164 HE IS FOUND AT LAST..

and a stranger too, could not pass unnoticed. She was, my dear friend, the general admiration of the place: every creature, male and female, declared her the most enchanting figure they ever beheld. These praises, you may naturally imagine, gave infinite pleasure to the heart of her fond mother; but the amiable object to whom they were addressed heard them with the most mortifying indifference; by which means she acquired the name of the "Fair Insensible, born to conquer, but herself unconquerable." Ah, would to heaven there were some degree of foundation for their giving her this character! Can there be a greater proof that, if we do
not

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 165

not wish to be deceived, we ought never to judge meerly by appearance? Yet they certainly had some degree of reason for this idea, since they could hardly conceive so young a creature could be so highly prepossessed in favour of any one man, as to be absolutely cold and indifferent to all others: it was hardly possible, I say, to imagine one of her age capable of such an attachment, and therefore the epithet was not altogether misapplied. On no consideration could any of the Gentlemen prevail upon her to dance: in vain were all their solicitations for that purpose: a minuet was all the favour they could obtain; and for that I believe they were more indebted to

me than to all their eloquence. It is impossible to conceive a more striking figure than she made at that moment: her graceful, easy motion, her natural dignity, the thoughtful, pensive air diffused over her expressive countenance, threw the most touching languor into her fine eyes.

Pardon me, Lady Craven, remember I am her mother, and that my heart is at this moment softened to the last degree, by her affecting situation. Had she been happy, were she once more restored to her natural sprightliness and vivacity, believe me, I should have heard and seen all this with becoming indifference: as she is
not,

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 167

not, my dear friend, it was impossible.

Adieu.

C. GRANVILLE.

LET-

L E T T E R XLIX.

From and to the same.

Scarborough.

WE were a good deal surprised yesterday, my dear friend, by a letter my lord received from the father-in-law of our poor Falkland. It contains only a few lines, but those you will confess must have greatly excited our curiosity, when I tell you they were to beg his lordship would instantly set off for ****, as Mr. Fleming (that is his name) had an affair of the utmost importance to acquaint

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quaint him with. He would have saved his lordship this trouble by waiting upon him, had not some particular circumstances in his present situation, put it out of his power to do himself that honour.

This, Lady Craven, is the purport of his letter. What the affair he mentions can be, we cannot possibly conceive. The only probable conjecture we have been able to form is, that Falkland is reduced by his unfortunate passion to such a situation, as to excite in Mr. Fleming so much compassion for his sufferings, that he is determined, though to the injury of his own son, to make such offers as, joined to our declared friendship and esteem, he flatters himself my lord will in

170 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

pity to the lovers accept.—This, I say, is the only thing that has the smallest appearance of probability; yet, to say truth, it has but very little.—But what else can it be?—Perhaps, too, he has found means to interest his friend Lord Bellmont in his cause, who has already done so much for him.—What is your opinion, my dear friend? For my part I am inclined to think it must be something of this nature, as it is not likely he can have any other business with a person to whom he is an utter stranger.—But whatever it is, there is no refusing his request. My Lord is, therefore, preparing to obey his summons, and we to return home, since I do not chuse to remain

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HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 171

main here during his absence, nor has Julia the smallest inclination to prolong her stay. We have already been here almost as long as we at first proposed, yet I cannot say it has produced any very considerable change. She is no worse however, which is no small consolation.—I need hardly tell you we have not mentioned this letter to her, as it could answer no other purpose than to inspire her with hopes which I am of opinion must ever be fruitless: for what would it avail, were his friends able to make him in point of fortune even her equal? which 'tis certain is absolutely out of the question; yet, admitting the thing possible, there are

172 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

still unfurmountable obstacles which must ever prevent their union.

Adieu, my dear friend. As I doubt not your curiosity is as great as mine to have this affair explained, you may depend on hearing from me the moment it is in my power to gratify it.

Yours most sincerely,

C. GRANVILLE.

L E T-

L E T T E R XXVIII.

From and to the same.

SINCE all attempts to give you the smallest idea of our joy, astonishment, surprise, and a thousand other sensations of that agreeable nature, is to all intents and purposes perfectly out of the question, let me, without wasting time in fruitless exclamations, at once make my dear friend a partaker in the general joy.

Know then, my dear Lady Craven, that our Falkland, that amiable,

174 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

able, that engaging young man, who has lately been the cause of a good deal of uneasiness, that adoring lover of my lovely Julia, is no other than the long-lost, tenderly-beloved son of Lady Rochford!—And now, my dear friend, take a few moments to indulge your astonishment, before I proceed to tell you by what means we have made this delightful discovery, which has filled our hearts with joy and gladness.

Before you proceed further in my letter, I take it for granted you will fly to Sir George breathless, with amazement, dying with impatience to tell him; yet so flurried, you will be unable to make him comprehend one word of your meaning.—

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HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 175
meaning.—I know this will be exactly the case.—But now, I say, supposing that over, attend while I endeavour to finish my story.—In the first place read the following letter, which I transcribe from the original, that you may the more readily carry with you the thread of my narrative.

TO MR. FALKLAND.

“ Before the most amiable of
“ men receives this important letter, the unfortunate writer of
“ it will be no more.—I am dying,
“ my beloved Falkland; yes, I am
“ dying a martyr to an ill-fated
“ passion, which heaven — that
“ heaven, to which I can appeal
I 4 “ for

176 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

“ for its sincerity and unparalleled
“ tenderness, would not suffer you
“ to return. Yes, my amiable
“ Falkland, unable to live without
“ the possession of that heart so
“ long, so tenderly adored, I fall
“ a victim to its cruel insensibility.
“ Yet can I with justice accuse
“ that noble, generous heart of
“ cruelty? — Ah, no: it is to
“ all, but the unfortunate Fanny,
“ sweetly compassionate, and filled
“ with the most tender sentiments
“ of love, friendship, and esteem.
“ Falkland, I will not attempt to
“ justify my conduct; perhaps it
“ is impossible:—but if ever you
“ are doomed to love, to adore,
“ and to despair, as I have done,
“ I think you will be induced to
“ reflect

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 177

“ reflect upon that conduct with
“ less severity.

“ It is now near four years
“ since my mother’s death — so
“ long have I been mistress of
“ the important secret I am now
“ going to reveal. In part you
“ are already acquainted with it,
“ but the most material circum-
“ stances are known to me alone.
“ Brought up together from our
“ infancy, believing you my bro-
“ ther, was it possible I should
“ not entertain for you the ten-
“ derest affection? — But I was no
“ sooner informed this was not
“ the case, than I found my heart
“ inspired with sentiments still
“ more tender than those of a
“ sister.”

178 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

‘ Fanny,’ “ said my mother,
“ when dying, at the same time
“ putting the interesting packet
“ which you will receive with this
“ last testimony of my uncon-
“ querable passion, into my hands,”
‘ Falkland, that much-injured
‘ amiable young man — Ah, my
‘ God,’ “ continued she, raising
“ her languid eyes to heaven, filled
“ with penitential tears,” ‘ forgive
‘ thy creature for being so deeply
‘ concerned in that cruel transac-
‘ tion—the amiable, the deserving
‘ Falkland, is not my son.—This
‘ packet, which I now intrust to
‘ your care, after having perused
‘ with attention, deliver to him
‘ when I am no more, and implore
‘ him, in my name, to let the re-
2 ‘ membrane

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 179

‘membrance of my crime be buried with me in the grave.—He loves you, my dearest Fanny, with the affection of a brother : perhaps, in return for the discovery you have it now in your power to make, he may change that affection into a still warmer passion :—if not, I am persuaded he will not so far punish the crime of your guilty mother, as to let her daughter know the want of a friend and protector.’

“ In a few hours after this interesting conference she expired.

“ Sensible I had nothing to hope while you continued to believe me your sister, I determined to reveal that part of the secret,

182 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

“ to comply with the request you
“ repeatedly made in them, yet
“ had courage to resist all your elo-
“ quence and pathetic importuni-
“ ties. — O Falkland, this alone
“ might convince you how infi-
“ nitely dear you are to my broken
“ heart.—Dare I then flatter my-
“ self with the soothing hopes that
“ you will pardon me?—*My* crime
“ has not, I trust, been attended
“ with any bad consequences. I
“ have indeed occasioned you much
“ anxiety and painful suspense;
“ but the noble prospects that a-
“ wait you will, when the unfor-
“ tunate Fanny is no more, am-
“ ply reward you for all your
“ past troubles. — Forgive me,
“ Falkland, if I cannot wish you
“ that

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 183

“ that felicity with another you
“ would not share with me.—
“ Even now, though dying, I can-
“ not reconcile myself to that
“ painful idea. Yet heaven knows
“ how fervently I ever did, and
“ shall with my last breath, pray
“ for your perfect, uninterrupted
“ happiness.

“ Farewell then, my adored,
“ my tenderly-beloved Falkland,
“ farewell for ever. I feel the
“ icy hand of death upon me.
“ A few short moments, and all
“ my sorrows will be forgotten,
“ and this emaciated form, which
“ I so ardently wished to render
“ pleasing in your eyes, will be
“ mingled with the dust.”

I am

184 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

I am convinced my dear Lady Craven has not been able to read these melancholy lines without being affected by the fate of this poor unfortunate girl.—I'll leave you to judge what must have been our dear Falkland's emotions while perusing them, and examining the interesting packet that accompanied this important letter.—He instantly set off for Mr. Fleming's, and found the unfortunate Fanny had been buried the day before his arrival, no one having the smallest suspicion, either of the cause of her death, or that she was not his sister. He immediately put all the papers into the hands of Mr. Fleming; whose astonishment, after perusing them, it is utterly impos-

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 185

impossible to express. You may believe he must have experienced some disagreeable emotions, on finding the wife he had so tenderly loved had been guilty of so unpardonable a crime. This circumstance Falkland, however, had too much delicacy to take any more notice of than was unavoidably necessary, while consulting together in what manner it was proper for him to proceed in the important business.

Mr. Fleming now, for the first time, informed him of the enquiries my Lord had made concerning his fortune and family some time ago, and the friendly design he had formed in his favour, in case they had turned out in any measure

186 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

measure such as he wished. Falkland was surprised beyond conception at this intelligence ; assuring Mr. Fleming, he had not the smallest idea that any person on earth was acquainted with his passion for Miss Granville except herself, as he had not even to her made any formal declaration of his sentiments, conscious he was in no respect entitled to expect his addresses could meet with the approbation of her family ; and his respect, his tenderness for his adored Julia, was infinitely too great to suffer him to involve her in that distress which must be the consequence of an alliance with him without it ; supposing Miss Granville could have been prevailed upon

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 187

upon to listen to his suit; a felicity which he had not the vanity to flatter himself, though he confessed his future happiness depended wholly on her smiles. His joy, his transports were so violent, on hearing this intelligence, so little expected, that Mr. Fleming blamed himself exceedingly, for having so precipitately revealed it to him; fearing such an unlooked-for change in his affairs might produce some fatal effect. The discovery of his name and family he bore with a tolerable degree of composure, as it was an event he had for some time been prepared to expect; but that Lord Granville should have thoughts of encouraging his addresses to his Julia,

188 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

lia, that dear object of his tenderest affections—it was too much—he was absolutely frantic—his joy knew no bounds—he no longer bestowed a thought on either his family or fortune.

“ Let me fly,” cried he, taking the hand of Mr. Fleming, which he eagerly pressed to his heart, as a testimony of his gratitude for the delightful information ; “ Ah, “ let me fly, and at the feet of “ my adored, my amiable Julia, “ freely pour out the sentiments “ of my heart, that transported “ heart, which never did, nor “ ever can, love any other.—O “ Sir, O my dear Mr. Fleming,” added he, observing he wished him to moderate those transports he had
fo

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 189

so imprudently excited ; “ you
“ know not my Julia ; ah, you
“ never beheld that enchanting
“ form, that engaging face, those
“ dear bewitching eyes.—Yet, an-
“ gelic as that form is, however
“ confessedly irresistible her perso-
“ nal attractions are, believe me,
“ those of her mind are still, if
“ possible, infinitely more so.—
“ O Sir, let us go—yes, you shall
“ accompany me—to you I will
“ leave the task of declaring to
“ them, I am not the low-born,
“ the indigent creature they at
“ present believe me, while at the
“ feet of my Julia I pour out the
“ fulness of my beating heart.”

In fine, my dear friend, it was
a considerable time before Mr. Fle-

190 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

ming could prevail upon him either to think or talk of any thing but his adored Julia. At length, however, they agreed to write to my Lord; which Mr. Fleming accordingly did, as I in a former letter informed you. To avoid repetition, which in these cases, where one surprising discovery is no sooner made, than another calls for my pen to describe it, which of all others is least qualified for the task; I will only tell you, it was now my Lord's turn not only to be astonished himself, but also to add still more to what they had already experienced.—By the packet of the unfortunate Fanny they learned, that Falkland's real name was Beverley; that his estate was
in

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 191
in Northamptonshire, and very
considerable, with many other in-
teresting particulars :—but when
my Lord informed him he was
Lady Rochford's son, by her first
husband Mr. Beverley, as the pa-
pers and many other circumstances
abundantly testified ; and that he
himself was, consequently, his un-
cle, being her Ladyship's brother,
which he already knew ; neither
my pen, my dear Lady Craven,
nor that of any other, could pos-
sibly give you the least idea of the
mutual consternation they were all
thrown into by this extraordinary
discovery.

Thus, my dear friend, have I
given you the substance of my
Lord's letter which he wrote at
Mr.

192 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

Mr. Fleming's, where he still is with our amiable Falkland, or rather Beverley; as it is proved, beyond all possible doubt, that he is justly entitled to that appellation. At that time they had not determined in what manner to break the affair to Lady Rochford, though her charming son is, you may believe, impatient to throw himself at the feet of his amiable mother. My Lord desired I would by no means mention one word of this affair to Julia, as he intends to surprise her, by unexpectedly introducing that engaging lover, whom she believes at this moment she is never to behold again. You may easily imagine it is no easy matter
for

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 193

for me to be silent on a subject which, I am so well assured, would at once remove all that dejection which really pierces my very heart, and instantly restore her to her former life and gaiety. I must, however, obey his request, whatever pains it costs me; as he, no doubt, promises himself much pleasure from her agreeable confusion and astonishment. Yet, at this moment, I am strongly tempted to disobedience; as the dear creature has just lost her companion, Miss Villers, who was sent for express, her brother being supposed at the point of death.—Ah, how little does he guess I have it so amply in my power to console her!—A few days, however, will,

194 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

I hope, put an end to all her sorrows.—Heavens! my dear Lady Craven, what will Mr. Selby say to this discovery?—Alas! he will share all our astonishment, without tasting any part of our inexpressible joy. It is certainly a very severe stroke upon him; but who is to blame? That reflection will, I trust, keep his wrath and indignation within bounds.

Adieu: in a day or two I hope to give you a further account of this agreeable event: in the mean time believe me

Affectionately yours,

C. GRANVILLE.

LET-

LETTER LI.

Miss GRANVILLE to Miss

VILLERS.

O Fanny, my dear Fanny, why did you leave me? ah, you know not what you have missed, by being absent from me at this time.—Good heavens! what a scene of joy, of rapture and amazement! Ah, it baffles all description—it is not in nature to give you an idea of my transports at this delightful moment.--Fanny, my Falkland, my engaging, my adoring Falkland, is actually here.

K 2

Yes,

296 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

Yes, that amiable, most deserving lover, is under the same roof with me. — But I have ten thousand thousand things to tell you; so many, I know not where to begin. Yet my impatience to rejoin the charming youth, who with such sweet importunity intreats me not to leave him, will put it absolutely out of my power to write a fiftieth part of them. — Good God, what a discovery! — This Falkland, so justly adored, so highly esteemed by us all, is the son of Lady Rochford, that long-lost, long-lamented son; nor am I now forbid to love him. — Ah, to what purpose would be that cruel prohibition? Yes, this engaging Falkland, to whom they all found it
so

so impossible to refuse their warmest friendship and esteem, is the son of my aunt, Lady Rochford. —I observed, a day or two after you left me, that my mother was in unusual spirits: something of a pleasing nature, I was positive, occasioned those emotions, which all her efforts could not conceal from me; but, as I had no idea that I was so deeply interested in them, I made no enquiries, persuaded she was too kind, too affectionate, to conceal from me any thing she knew would give me pleasure.—How much was I deceived in this conjecture!

Finding I was not to be a partaker in the satisfaction she visibly enjoyed, I thought no more about

198 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

it; but continued, as usual, to amuse myself with my book and solitary rambles. Yesterday, while sauntering on the terras, under those shady trees where you and I have so often, undisturbed, talked for hours on this delightful subject, I heard the rattling of a carriage driving to the gate. I made no doubt but it was my father, as we had expected him for several days.—Ah, how little did I guess the occasion of his absence!—I turned about, with an intent to go into the house; but had not advanced half the length of the gravel walk, when, to my utter astonishment, I beheld my Falkland, joy sparkling in his eyes, flying with open arms towards me.

—In

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 199

—In a moment he clasped me to his heart.—The idea which instantly struck me, that he was there unknown to any of my family, in spite of the delight I felt in his dear embrace, so entirely overcame my spirits, that I had only strength to utter an exclamation of surprise, and then fainted in his arms.—When I recovered, I found myself placed on a sofa in my dressing-room. My Lord, my mother, and a gentleman I had never seen before, standing round me; and my Falkland at my knees, pressing my almost-lifeless hand to his lips.

“My Julia, my adored Julia!” cried he, as I opened my eyes, “ah, never, never shall I for-

200 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

“ give myself, for having so im-
“ prudently endangered the life of
“ my beloved angel.—My God !
“ what could tempt me to surprise
“ my lovely creature in that un-
“ pardonable manner ? —Can my
“ Julia forgive her Falkland ? ”
continued he, almost devouring
my poor hand with his fervent
kisses ; “ Can you, my sweet love,
“ forgive an imprudence, which
“ can only be imputed to the vio-
“ lence of that tender passion, by
“ which my heart has been wholly
“ engrossed from the first moment
“ I beheld those engaging eyes,
“ that form so lovely ? ”

“ Come, come,” said my father,
smiling, “ a truce with all those
• soft speeches. • Thank heaven,

“ all

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 201

“all appearance of danger is at
“an end. Let us now, by way
“of reparation for your fault,
“put an end also to that surprise
“from which I see my poor terri-
“fied girl is not yet recovered.
“To say truth, we were all to
“blame; but this I trust will set
“all to rights again,” continued
he, taking Falkland’s hand, which
he put into mine: “There, Ju-
“lia, I now freely make you a
“present of this young man.
“Take him, and from this happy
“moment look upon him as your
“own.—I know him to be wor-
“thy, not only of *your* tenderest
“affections, but *ours* also, at pre-
“sent; at your peril, therefore,
K 5 “spoil

“spoil him by too much indulgence.”

Ah, Fanny, who can conceive my emotions, my amazement, at that transporting moment? It is impossible, had you even been present; how much more so then, to give you any idea of what I felt, by writing?—In short, my dear girl, I am now, from being the most unhappy, the most completely blessed of any creature this world ever beheld, or ever can behold; since I am confident it has not another Falkland to bestow.

The stranger I mentioned is a Mr. Fleming, who has hitherto been believed his father-in-law.—But I must reserve the particulars of this affair for some future letter,

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ter, at present I have not time for so long a story; but if you are very impatient, which I think will most likely be the case, you have only to call upon Lady Craven, to whom my mother wrote them all some time ago.

To-morrow we all set off together for Rose-hill.—Think, my dear Fanny, what a new scene of joy and amazement still awaits us. Neither Sir William nor my sweet aunt have yet had the smallest intimation of this delightful event.—To-morrow, I say, we go to restore to her arms that engaging son, for whom she has so long, so deeply mourned.—I will write to you again from thence.

204 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

Forgive me, my dear girl, for not enquiring before for your brother. I sincerely hope the tender apprehensions and fears of your family made them believe him in a more dangerous way than he really is. Be assured, though at present so wholly engrossed by my charming Falkland, I am not without anxiety on his account.—Is he not the loved brother of my friend?—Can he then be indifferent to the heart of her

JULIA GRANVILLE?

LET-

L E T T E R LII.

From and to the same.

IT is not in nature that there can be a more completely happy set of people than we are at this moment. Rose-hill is now indeed, my dear Fanny, a perfect Paradise. It is impossible to conceive a more beautiful spot than it is at this delightful season; and for its inhabitants, they are positively and literally in full possession of perfect felicity: so there is an end to that false opinion I, like many

many others, have hitherto entertained, that it is a blessing mortals are not born to taste.—Either we are immortal, my dear, or that doctrine is not orthodox—believe which ever you think most probable.

Excuse me, if I do not say one word about my aunt's meeting with my charming Falkland—Beverley I should say; but I have so long been accustomed to that dear name, that it will be some time before I can call him by any other.—You must imagine it all, my dear Fanny—to describe it is out of the question.—'Twas joy, 'twas rapture, and every other tender feeling: yet there was not a dry eye amongst us; but our tears were

tears of exquisite joy, and pleasure unutterable. — That amiable mother, and my kind Sir William, who had ever been a sweet advocate for my elegant Falkland — Falkland again — both confirmed the inestimable gift my father had before ventured to bestow upon me without waiting for their consent. Ah, Fanny, he knew they loved his happy Julia with too much tenderness, for one moment to oppose her felicity.

We are at present overwhelmed with congratulatory visits; crowd after crowd pour in upon us from morning till night. — No avoiding it: though we are, I am well assured, more indebted to curiosity, that prevailing passion, for the trouble,

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trouble, than to any more laudable motive.—Poor Selby, that doubly-unfortunate lover, is the only person in the whole county who has neglected this compliment.—He, you must know, affects to disbelieve every syllable of the matter; and has accordingly raised a regiment of lawyers, who are to oppose, with all their might, this pretender to his dominions.—I am really sorry on his own account; so indeed are we all, that he should, by this imprudence, oblige us, contrary to our inclination, to expose, in the publick manner we now unavoidably must, the character of his mother. He should consider, that though *we* believe, nay, are firmly convinced, he

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he is perfectly innocent in regard to that black transaction ; yet it is more than possible the world may happen to be of a different opinion, by his thus attempting to dispute a fact so incontestibly proved. I am extremely sensible it is a mortifying affair to him : there is no doubt of it, after being so many years the supposed owner of such an estate, after having lived in the affluence and style of life he has done from his very childhood ; I confess it is hard, unspeakably hard, to resign all those advantages, and to descend to a state of mediocrity. It is no easy matter, Fanny, I can easily suppose, to do this with a good grace. Yet, had he been capable
of

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of that generous manly conduct, he would have ensured to himself the esteem and applause of the world, who would, no doubt, have continued to treat him with that respect to which he would in that case have been justly entitled. —Ah, he is a stranger to the noble, generous sentiments of my charming Beverley!

But how shall I describe to you the woeful, the despairing condition to which this happy event has reduced my poor Colonel Townley?—Between ourselves, I believe, in spite of his boasted friendship, and all that, he very heartily repents having introduced my Falkland to our acquaintance: for
how-

however well he may love his friend, depend upon it he loves himself still better. Yet, to do him justice, he behaves on the occasion as well as can be expected: for, to say truth, it is no very joyous matter to have one's mistress run away with, though by the dearest friend on earth. He is here perpetually; determined, I fancy, to take his fill of gazing on me in spite of his teeth.—It would highly divert you, could you see with what visible difficulty he is able to restrain his emotions, or forbear going on in his old way.

“You must allow me time,
 “my dear Falkland,” he perpetually

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tually cries, " to wean myself
 " from adoring this saucy Julia,
 " who now looks upon me with
 " such killing, such infinite con-
 " tempt. I give you my ho-
 " nour I intend, the moment it
 " is in my power, to hate her
 " most cordially: Yes, and her
 " whole bewitching, tormenting
 " sex, for her dear sake. They
 " are, one and all, a parcel of
 " good-for-nothing gipsies: yet
 " we foolish fellows can neither
 " live happy with, nor without
 " them.—I, however, have done
 " with them; and that they shall
 " find to their sorrow.—No more
 " sighing, no more whining.—
 " Henceforward I renounce all
 " love,

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 213

“love, except that of glory and
“ambition.”

In this manner he runs on by
the hour; yet, at that very time,
he sits gazing at me, as if every
look was to be his last, and squeez-
ing my hands with such intolera-
ble violence, that he frequently
makes me scream with pain. I
really believe he torments them
thus out of mere revenge. In
short, my dear, the man is half
mad, and so I very gravely tell
him.

Thus you see, my dear Fanny,
my adventures are likely to make
a very happy conclusion. We have
nothing now to do, but to pre-
pare cloaths, jewels, equipage,
&c.

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&c. &c. &c. all which is the most delightful of all possible employments. As you are in the centre of all these joyous matters, in case we do not leave the country on the occasion, which I neither hope nor expect, I shall give you a competent share of exercise; for I propose to honour you with at least a thousand commissions. I hope your coach-horses are in good order. Pray make my best respects to them, and bid them prepare to carry their fair mistress a shopping from one end of the town to the other, at least once a day, for some time to come. I know them to be sensible, well-bred creatures, and
that

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that they have a very particular
friendship and esteem for your
superlatively happy, and no less
affectionate,

JULIA GRANVILLE.

LET-

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LETTER LIII.

Lady GRANVILLE to Lady CRAVEN.

YOUR presence last Tuesday, my dear Lady Craven, was alone wanting, to render us the most compleatly happy set of people in the universe. On that day our lovely Julia gave her hand to that adoring, that truly engaging lover, who had so long been possessed of her valuable heart.—And now, my dear friend, I trust we may with certainty pronounce all our troubles, fears, and apprehensions, are for ever at an end :

I

not

not one single wish of our hearts ungratified. The only regret we feel is, that it was not in your power to be witness to our felicity. You have promised, however, to join our happy party next month. On this promise we depend, and look forward to that period with inexpressible pleasure.

Sir William, whose tenderness and affection for the deserving Beverly can only be equalled by that of his Charlotte, insisted on having their nuptials celebrated in the most splendid and public manner. My sweet Julia made many remonstrances against it, but all to no purpose: he would positively have his own way; and she was

VOL. II. L obliged,

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obliged, though contrary to her inclination, to give up the point. Accordingly, we have had balls and entertainments without end: nor is the hurry and bustle of visiting yet over. You may believe I very sincerely wish we were at liberty to enjoy ourselves in peace and tranquillity; but we must have patience till the curiosity of all the good folks is fully gratified. We must give them leave to gaze their fill at all our finery, and at the most elegant couple that ever my eyes beheld. In your life, my dear Harriot, you never saw so fine a figure as this charming Beverly, while leading his sweetly-blushing,

2

and

and inimitably-graceful Julia, to the altar. But you know her, my dear Lady Craven, and have ever declared her the loveliest creature in the world.

Poor Selby, after making a most violent bustle, has been obliged to resign that estate he has so long looked upon as his own. The proofs were too evident, too well attested, to bear the smallest argument. Even his own lawyers, though, no doubt, well fee'd for the purpose, were ashamed, when it came to their turn to speak on the subject, to say one word against them.—It was no sooner determined against him than he; without farther ceremony, set off for

220 HE IS FOUND AT LAST.

France. It is rather a mortifying circumstance to be reduced from three thousand a year to three hundred, which is all he inherits from his father: but had he thought proper to behave in this affair in a less outrageous manner, Beverly intended to have made it at least double that sum; nay, still intends it, as soon as he has gone through all the necessary forms of taking possession, &c. &c.

Adieu, my dearest friend. I need not repeat how unspeakably anxious we are all for your arrival. Remember you have fixed the time: do not disappoint us, if you have the smallest desire to
re.

HE IS FOUND AT LAST. 221

retain that place you have so long
possessed in the heart of

Your sincerely affectionate,

C. GRANVILLE.

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